

Educational Supplement

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PERSONAL

Ever since a secretary typing a letter to a rather strong-minded university bursar began it, "Dear Sir," I have realized that misspelling can sometimes reveal a version of the truth that eluded the original.

Once had a secretary who occasionally gave the key a glancing blow at some crucial point and produced gems like "Thank you for your 3/4 helpful reply," or "I am sure you will find him a 3/4 good candidate". When a piece I wrote about the DES being a secret palace came out as "secret police", I left it in as it seemed more apt. The new generation of Freudian typewriters obviously knows things that we mortals do not.

That is why I was curious to know the truth behind a *Guardian* misprint which announced: "A report that Dir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, was prepared to resign to make way for new blood in the Cabinet was dismissed emphatically by sources within the Department of Education and Science yesterday".

Apart from an immediate reaction that any kind of blood, never mind new blood, would be welcome among the crop of weeds currently masquerading as our leaders, who or what, one wondered, was Dir Keith Joseph? The rest of the paragraph, which merely

reported that Mr Norman who-the-hell-he Lamont was tipped to succeed him, offered no more clues. I always thought Morcamme and Wise were the hottest favourites, but that is by the way.

Meanwhile, linguistics experts have been working round the clock to puzzle out hidden meanings. The possibility of it really being *Dir* Keith Joseph was soon ruled out, as Old Frizzy Bunce has been dangerously near talking sense on one or two occasions recently, and went through his most *Dir* phase about a year ago. The most plausible explanation is that it is a dig at the present Government's heavily repressive, authoritarian stance towards education. According to this view *Dir* could be an abbreviation for "dirigiste" or "directive". More likely, however, is the theory that it is really the German definite article "*Der*" as in "*Der Kaiser*", and thus represents the pompous, officious German-twit stereotype so beloved in children's comics.

Above five years ago teachers in Germany were threatened with dismissal if they used any textbook not on the approved list or made up a worksheet which had not been officially vetted. *Der* Keith's greatest autocratic triumph was forcing the Social Science



Ted Wragg

Research Council to change its name to Economic and Social Research Council for no apparent reason other than pure whim, the kind of monumental achievement which had champagne corks popping nowhere at all and has only been good news for the letterhead printing industry.

His apprentice sidekick, Junior Minister *Der* Bob Dunn, or is it *Der* Bob Duck, the memory plays cruel tricks with these nonentities, has fortunately been a failed authoritarian.

However, whereas Herr Duck has been singularly unsuccessful in imposing his one, for want of a better word, idea, namely the reintroduction of the 11-plus, another junior minister, *Der* Peter Morrison, this time in the Department of Employment of all places, is beginning to show a much better batting average.

Der Punitive Pete is one major reason why I cringe at the prospect of the Manpower Services Commission getting a stronger grip on the curricula of schools and colleges. He began his career as a creative curriculum thinker by trying to censor political education, and has since unilaterally closed down the MSC Broadcasting Resources Unit which would have sponsored radio and television programmes to support teachers working on YTS and other MSC schemes. That - by comparison - imaginative and sensitive curriculum developer, *Der* Norman Tebbit, had originally established the unit.

Worse is to come. *Der* Punitive Pete and the MSC have now been given 25 per cent of further education to control. I wonder whether local authorities and colleges fully realize that a quarter of what has traditionally been their own work will now be firmly under the heel of Pete and his pals, who by all accounts know even less about education than Herr Duck, if

that is at all possible. Since it will be the first time this hapless crew of rookies has handled a significant chunk of the education system I offer this helpful little glossary of useful terms, and a few tips about what to say and how to avoid gaffes.

F. E. College (pron. "effee kollidge"). A place of learning for older students. Say things like, "May I talk to some of the staff responsible for YTS work?" rather than, "Do the children get house points for neatness?"

Curriculum (pron. "kurrikulum"). All that is studied and learned in the college. Try opening like, "Tell me about your social and life skills courses". Avoid, "How many schools in classics are you hoping the sixth will pull off this year?"

Lecturers (pron. "lekchurerrz"). People who teach in colleges. Say, "May I meet the students doing robotics?" Avoid, "I am from *Der* MSC and *Der* Pete orders you to put all punks in detention", or, "Are those yobs in leather jackets clutching their motorcycle helmets an advance landing party of invading Martians?"

DIARY

Growing old on student politics

A week in the West Country. First to Bristol University Students' Union where I debate the Higher Education Policy of Her Majesty's Government in a 1930s Odeon ambience, all fluted pillars and dimmed lights.

There is little need for me to say much, as the opening speakers are student politicians and quite able to conduct the debate on their own. On my side is Tommy Shepherd, a practised politician on the executive of the National Union of Students, with an impressive grasp of both the statistics and the arguments.

His opponent is a lean young fellow by the name of Spalding, an aspirant (though not hopeful) Conservative president of NUS, who doubles as research officer to Sir William van Straubenzee, the Commons Select Committee chairman.

On inquiry, I am told that the NUS has aged a continental habit which I never much favoured. It seems it is now possible to go on being a student politician in Britain for as long as seven years after ceasing to be a student. I remember being sent on a round of international conferences in my (genuinely studying) student days, and finding myself an uneasy juvenile amid a milling throng of 40 and 50-year-old Scandinavian and Germanic "youth".

Happily, we haven't gone quite this far yet. The experienced political heads of Mr Shepherd and Mr Spalding are still on comparatively strapping shoulders.

In spite of the elite, sub-Oxbridge composition of Bristol University (the most eloquent student wins a bottle of champagne after each debate), I think our side won; but I'm not sure; we were whisked back to Paddington before we could find out, prudently fortifying ourselves with pub sandwiches and warm lager on a restaurant-less train.

I was pitted against a Mr Walden - not Brian, the increasingly Thatcherite ex-Labour MP and London Weekend Television pundit, but a new one to me - George Walden, Conservative MP for Buckingham, and a trifle less sparkling than Brian.

He is one of a number of diplomats who have sought excitement in the Commons after the boredom of the Foreign Office, where George had been immersed in both the Soviet Union and David Owen's private office. The log jam of Commons diplomats, however, has driven him to become an education "specialist". He now serves on Sir Wm van S's Select Committee, where he is preparing to give of his wit and wisdom to the nation on the subject of primary schools.

Spectral schoolboys on the train

Now that Bristol is scarcely an hour away from London by train, it's hardly the West Country any more. So a few days later, I go in search of the real thing on a long-standing engagement to address the unmassed ranks of Dorset's socialist teachers. It seems little has changed since Tolpuddle days; it's not a part of the world where it's wise to profess socialism in public or, indeed, to disagree with your commanding officer.

The train is invaded at Southampton by young, uniformed subterfuges, off to play soldiers for the weekend. I suddenly see where William Golding (a fellow chalkface worker in the 1950s, I at King Edward's, Southampton, he at Bishop Wordsworth's, Salisbury) found his characters for *Lord of the Flies*. There's Jack practising his verbal sadism against any little foolish enough to come within earshot. Piggy skulking by the toilet and Simon brooding miserably beyond him. I feel a chill in my spine, witnessing fear and militarism alive and well in Britain as we rattle across the New Forest into Christchurch and Pokesdown.

Dry rot in plank

There's worse to come. I had always thought that, for all their acts of desecration, it would be difficult for the present government to destroy the central plank of the 1944 Education Act - the provision which made it illegal to charge fees in any school grant-aided by public funds (except in direct grant-aided schools - another story).

I find the plank in Dorset already beset with dry rot: at one grammar school, I am told, a £50 contribution for books is de rigueur to the point where parents who can't pay think twice about sending their children there.

It was from Bournemouth that Sir Keith Joseph was leaked CND material being used for examination questions, of which he has made so much of late in his outbursts against peace studies.

The questions seemed to me more balanced than much of the Ministry of Defence-funded material which arrives unsolicited in schools; and it says much for Miss Jean Bisgood (the Dorset education Chair and a survivor from pre-Thatcher days) that the education committee has remained relaxed about the whole episode. Miss Bisgood is an eminently honest

educationist. It was she who admitted to the Select Committee two years ago that, much as Dorset would have liked to protect the schools with a "curriculum-led" staffing policy, the county had discovered it was spending far too little even to attempt such an exercise. I am sorry she has decided the time has come to change the way in the summer; I met some who feared her successor could usher in a regime less comfortable for the teachers of Dorset.

Early closing

I am taken to task by my old friend, Dr George Tolley, in the letters page last week for writing epigrammatic nonsense ("education has an open curriculum, training a closed one"), finding sticks with which to beat the Manpower Services Commission and demeaning work. Serious charges. I wasn't demeaning work, just suggesting that youngsters should be allowed to make their own minds up in their own time about the lifestyle they wanted to pursue; and however much the MSC may be a welcome release for some youngsters from schools where they've been made to feel failures, they still deserve some real education - a space in their lives which their



Miss Jean Bisgood Dr George Tolley

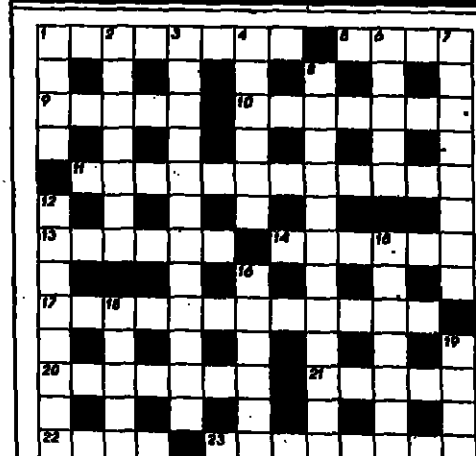
"clever" university contemporaries take for granted.

By dint of pressure from the education lobby, many TVEI courses in our schools have an "open" element - a chance for the pupils to discuss the social and political implications of the training they undergo. If such an element existed on YTS courses, I would be cheering on the sidelines and apologizing to the MSC for every rule word I've ever said about them.

But it doesn't; and every time there is even a suggestion of political discussion on YTS, a minister goes berserk and promises it won't happen again. Raw training without education may prepare youngsters for some jobs better than schools; but it short-changes them as citizens.

Christopher Price

No 146 CROSSWORD by Rufus



- 1 Across (4)
- 2 Across (7) A saint about one who became one (7)
- 3 Across (7) Are they found in literary haunts? (7)
- 4 Across (7) It could get Charon in a fix on the Styx (6)
- 5 Across (7) Study on leave in *Atlas* (5)
- 6 Across (7) It comes in to fight on the other side (8)
- 7 Across (7) Making another gift - on one's behalf? (12)
- 8 Across (7) Clis out a ballet movement (8)
- 9 Across (7) Are moving home, it must be serious (7)
- 10 Across (7) An article to be followed (6)
- 11 Across (7) Pakistan's greatest current asset (5)
- 12 Across (7) Public school of rising reputation (4)

Across

- 1 Press men in China (8)
- 5 Repeat after some reflection (4)
- 9 Clut's disrupting one's zest for life (5)
- 10 One way to keep the dirt down (5, 2)
- 11 Forbidding places? (7, 5)
- 13 Traces wrongly directed supplies (6)
- 14 Look for plants in a school (6)
- 17 You may like a nip from this dog (5, 7)
- 20 Given command (7)
- 21 Getting in a wild pet is silly (5)
- 22 Corporation band (4)
- 23 Clut up when the right man is about (8)

Down

- 1 Turn up the gas-ring to

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Authorities allow for 3-5 per cent increases in payroll budgets

Teachers get ready for a drawn-out salaries battle

by Richard Garner

Local education authorities have budgeted for between 3 and 5 per cent increases in teachers pay this year - but union attitudes are hardening in the present deadlock.

According to unpublished figures collated by the employers, a significant minority of Conservative-controlled authorities have allowed for 3 per cent. A couple of L.E.A.s have set aside cash for 5 per cent, but the vast majority have budgeted for somewhere in between the two figures - around 4 per cent.

Evidence reaching the teachers' unions tallies with these figures. According to the National Union of Teachers, which has received information from about 70 authorities, most have allowed for between 4 and 4.5 per cent.

However, teachers' union leaders argue that they do not know how many of these authorities have extra cash tucked away in reserves to top up teachers' salaries if it becomes necessary.

Meanwhile, union leaders are being urged to sanction industrial action which would disrupt next term's examinations as anger swells among teachers over the 3 per cent pay offer to the profession.

The employers were meeting last night with the intention of improving their 3 per cent pay offer. However the mood of the teachers has hardened so severely over the last week and it is being confidently predicted that they are unlikely to be satisfied by anything but a substantial improvement.

In an almost unprecedented display of unity from teachers' organizations, it looks as though strike action by the three largest teachers' unions could be on the cards next term.

An offer of 4.5 per cent which might just have proved acceptable last week might now fail to persuade union leaders, who meet today to plan their strategy, to call off their planned action.

This week saw industrial action throughout the country by members of the 119,000-strong National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of

Women Teachers - culminating in a half-day strike on Wednesday in all the authorities where schools had not packed up for the Easter holidays. In Sheffield, it led to Mr Mike Bower, chairman of the education committee, writing to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities urging it to support sending the teachers' claim to arbitration.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the NAS/UTW, said: "What has surprised us is the number of calls we have received from around the country to clobber the examinations next term."

"Obviously, this action could not be taken without careful consideration being given to it by the union's conference and executive - but it does show the strength of feeling of our members about the pay offer."

Members of the association's national action committee will meet next Tuesday to discuss what recommendations to put to the annual conference of the union the week after - and on the cards is an escalation of strike action.

Leaders of the NUT have also agreed on a comprehensive package of proposals of industrial action, which will be put to its annual conference at Blackpool over Easter.

These include a one-day national strike in May - possibly May 9 - with the possibility of further extended strike action later in the term.

Mr Doug McAvoy, acting general secretary of the NUT, said his union had also received calls for support for action which would disrupt examinations - but the executive had set its face firmly against this.

Leaders of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association were predicting there would be a call for a withdrawal of goodwill.

The National Association of Head Teachers has advised members to do nothing which would undermine the effectiveness of their teachers' action. And at their annual meeting on Sunday, Secondary Heads Association members supported rejection of the 3 per cent pay offer.



Living history: local veterans examine some military mementoes on display at the Bishop's Castle County high school in Shropshire. The one-day exhibition at the comprehensive held last Tuesday drew on items and resources from local history including pupil projects from the special studies history course.

Picture: Janine Wiedel

OU relegates role of broadcasting

by Mark Jackson

Open University broadcasting will be cut back next year. It is likely to be the start of a sharp reduction over the next three years in the role of radio and television as the OU's main vehicle of instruction.

The BBC has already started reducing the amount of material under preparation for the OU as part of the economies forced on the university by the Government's cut in its grant to the university this year.

Although the university is only lopping around £700,000 off its £10m a year broadcasting budget, the cut will have a disproportionate effect on programmes because a large part of the budget goes on overheads which cannot be trimmed quickly.

But with bigger reductions in the Government grant to come next year and the year after, the OU is seeking discussions with the BBC as to how broadcasting arrangements can be reorganized so as to achieve more effective savings.

The crisis over broadcasting costs has given new urgency to the OU's need to reach a decision about whether audio and video cassettes can replace radio and television. It is known that more than half the students have access to a video recorder.

Professor David Murray, the OU's pro-chancellor (academic), told *The TES* this week that reducing reliance on broadcast programmes was one of the options confronting the OU.

"We see the purpose of the indicators as succinctly but adequately to sketch the education provision made by each L.E.A. to all those with a serious

Accountants find I.e.a.s yardstick

by Nick Wood

A new formula for measuring how well local education authorities are running their schools and colleges has been produced by public sector accountants and educational administrators. The results could be used to draw up a league table of L.E.A.s performance.

A report from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, released today, says every L.E.A.'s performance can be boiled down to an educational balance sheet made up of seven key indicators.

These are: pupils receiving free meals as a percentage of the total school rolls; the pupil/teacher ratio; the gross cost per pupil; school occupancy rates; admissions; appeals per 1,000 pupils; exam results; and the percentages of 16-year-olds staying on at school or going into further education, training or employment.

The report, by a research group of local authority officers, says that the first indicator is the best measure of an education authority's social and economic context. The rest show whether it is giving value for money.

The group, which was chaired by Mr Tom Hinds, deputy chief education officer for Cambridgeshire, says the report is intended to contribute to the public debate about educational performance and standards.

"We see the purpose of the indicators as succinctly but adequately to sketch the education provision made by each L.E.A. to all those with a serious

interest in influencing the resources allocated for that provision.

"For this reason, the indicators must be 'credible' in meeting 'lay' interest and 'technical' managerial interest."

The report discusses each of its seven recommended indicators in turn, in each case spelling out the light they shed on educational resources and results, efficiency and pupils' backgrounds. Some indicators, notably that dealing with exam results, will require further refinement, it says.

Mr Phillip Ramadale, a CIPFA assistant secretary and a member of the 14-strong research group, said that the indicators had been drawn up to help people make the best use of the institute's statistics and to open up debate about whether it was coming up with the right kind of data.

But there was no doubt they could and would be used for making comparisons between authorities and within authorities over time, he said. Precisely how this was done would depend on the weighting each indicator was given in arriving at a total measure of L.E.A. performance.

The CIPFA report is being issued as a discussion document. The institute wants comments back by the end of July.

Performance indicators in the education service. Published by CIPFA, 1 Buckingham Place, London SW1.



Ralph (James Aubrey) and Piggy (Hugh Edwards) in *Lord of the Flies*

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Mixed results

New research on mixed age classes contradicts conclusions of Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

Speaking out

Bert Lodge meets Ray Honeyford, the Bradford head teacher at the centre of controversy.

Going shares

Hilary Wile on teacher job-sharing in Sheffield.

University challenge

Martin Milligan on how the university arts faculties are defending their corner against the threat of further cuts. Responses to the UGC questionnaire.

Bad bets

The fruit machines and amusement arcades turning some pupils into compulsive gamblers (picture).

Arts/Books

James Bentley on the evidence behind *Jews: The Evidence*; Hugh Herbert on Mass Observation; Clive Swift on being an actor; John Messenger on the song of the whale; Nick Baker on the Rock School final; Roy Shaw on Peter Vansittart's *Voices*; Ted Wragg on the curriculum. Primary and computer textbooks.

Resources/Media

John A Barker reviews biology packs; Nick Baker on *Sparks*, a series on enterprising young people; Victoria Neumark on *Enthusiasm*, a series about individual interests.

EXTRA

Geography: GA Conference preview. Aspects of the problems, issues, relevance, role and history of geography. 39-50

Getting back on the rails?

The failure of last week's teachers' salary negotiations had more to do with muddle and incompetence than obduracy. This week the conciliators have been at work. Sir John Wordie, the chairman of the Burnham Committee, called the two sides together after very plain prompting from Doug McAvoy, the acting leader of the teachers' side and with the encouragement of the employers.

The formal refusal of the management panel to raise their initial offer of 3 per cent had not prevented informal, "without prejudice", discussions which indicated that the employers would eventually go to 4 per cent plus, the only question being how big the plus would be. As for the teachers, it was equally obvious that their chances of getting much more than the 5.5 per cent (who are bargaining on 4.5 per cent) and the local authority manual workers (who settled for 4.5 per cent) were remote. By the same token, it was plain that it would be extremely difficult for the teachers to settle for less than a "going rate" of this order.

What seems to have happened last Tuesday was a failure on the part of the management panel to make positive moves towards a settlement till too late. By the time the authorities were prepared to talk of 4 per cent, the teachers' panel was losing patience and attitudes were hardening. By the end of the day it was not certain that an agreement could have been achieved even at 4.5 per cent, the effective upper limit of plausible expectation. And, of course, it is of the nature of Burnham negotiation that the employers are extremely reluctant to raise their offer till the outline of an agreement is clearly visible. Having missed the magic moment, the two sides ended in a wrangle over the claim which might be submitted to

an arbitrator, and feuding (perhaps unnecessarily) that an arbitrator would simply split the difference between a claim of 12.5 per cent and an offer of 3 per cent, the authorities decided to call it a day.

It is a matter of speculation why this was bungled yet again. When this happens it is often because of the complicated divisions inside the management panel. The Department of Education and Science representatives have on previous occasions found it difficult to respond with the speed and flexibility which ordinary negotiation procedures require. On this occasion it could well be that the DES has harboured the illusion that because the teachers hope to benefit by a generous restructuring agreement next year, they can be made to accept a bare 4 per cent this year. This may have made it harder for the local authority representatives to negotiate the extremely difficult transition from an opening offer of the 3 per cent figure which is enshrined in the Rate Support Grant to the ultimate 4.5 per cent which is demanded for parity with the Scots and the manual workers. But there is, in any case, no doubt about the difficulties the authorities face. Many of them have only budgeted for a 3 per cent settlement and have fought as hard as they can to keep their rates down. There is some force in the recurring threat that a bigger pay rise now could mean fewer jobs.

As the negotiators try again, it remains to be seen whether the circumstances of the breakdown have removed the basis of an agreement somewhere around the 4.4-4.5 per cent mark. The unions are said to be less willing to settle now than they were, but this may well be more forensic than real. It is not at all clear that there is anything they can do by taking industrial action which could force the employers to

offer more than 4.5 per cent. What is obvious is that a bitter quarrel now could scupper the restructuring negotiations and deprive the teachers of a better deal next year. If, as seems likely, restructuring is the only key which can unlock some genuine "new money" for the teachers, it would be silly and self-indulgent to prefer the macho posturing of an industrial dispute to a compromise settlement which, while not by any means perfect, would get the teachers as much in 1984 as they can have had any reason to expect.

To complicate matters, the union conferences loom on the Easter horizon. In all probability it will not be till after Easter that a full meeting of Burnham can be convened and a deal be formally struck. Anything before that would be of a preliminary nature - the nudges and winks might well have been made and accepted, but till the formal offer had been made and accepted, it would still be possible for the union conferences to take place without any definitive proposal to be ratified or rejected.

The union leaders are in a jam. Their radical critics will try to whip up opposition to any settlement at a realistic figure and use the conference to raise consciousness and emotions in readiness for a long dispute with the authorities. There is plenty of evidence from NUT and NASUWT members to show the strength of grass-root feelings. Today's meeting of the teachers' panel will have these matters very much in mind. Confident leadership could take a proposed settlement to the conference hall and force delegates to face the facts. But this would run risks it is hard to ask an acting general secretary of the NUT to take, and there will be no shortage of voices urging that somehow the issues should be fudged till after Easter.

COMMENT

Making policy on the hoof

Last week's about-turn on the Inner London Education Authority proves, according to Mr John Selwyn Gummer, chairman of the Conservative Party, that this is "the listening Government".

Mr Gummer may come to regret those words. The pressure on ministers to reverse their decision to abolish the Greater London Council is growing - this week's tally of responses showed 91 in favour of scrapping and 882 for keeping it - and the House of Lords mounted a sizable mutiny against the Rates Bill on Monday. How loud does protest have to be before Nanny starts to listen?

Still, the Government deserves two cheers for recognizing, however belatedly, that it was on to a loser in its original plans for the ILEA.

In the short- and medium-term, however, the ILEA confronts an unholy mess which is entirely of its own making. First, as is now clear, the delay over the London authority's future means that three different administrations will be trooping in and out of County Hall in as many years. A recipe for administrative chaos - or, more probably perhaps, for a reluctant takeover by the officials.

While this rapid change of cast is taking place, rate-capping will force the authority to achieve a dramatic reduction in its budget. Getting the ILEA's spending down from its present \$900m to the amount Environment ministers think it ought to spend is widely expected to take at least three years. Who will have the experience or authority to guide (and force) it through? Not borough nominees.

Rate-capping starts in 1985 and will be run from the Department of the Environment. But the Department of Education and Science will become directly involved in 1986. The White Paper, *Streamlining the Cities* said the new joint boards would be subject to

direct control on spending and manpower levels by the relevant department for the first three years. Those arrangements, meant to avoid a spending spree by frisky young authorities, will apparently still apply to the directly-elected body. But who needs direct controls and rate-capping?

This is the sort of muddled government create when they make things up as they go along. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that, while local government comes low on the scale of ministerial preoccupations, education, as local government's largest service, rates lowest of all.

Du côté de chez Swann

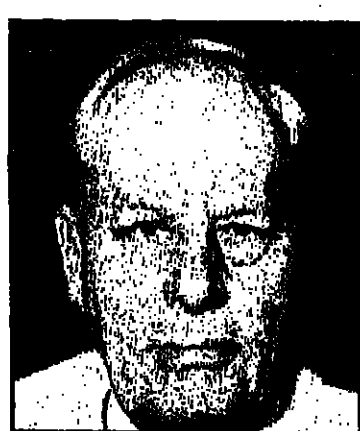
Yet another research report examining the factors affecting performance in schools of different ethnic groups has apparently received a cool reception from some members of the Swann Committee (page 3).

The reaction that it revealed nothing new could well be right, but the episode reinforces the unfortunate picture of a committee with an ambivalent attitude to research in general.

The interim report of what was then the Rampton Committee was by common consent marred by the absence of adequate research findings to support its central contention that West Indian under-achievement in schools was caused by racism.

When Swann publishes its gloomily-awaited report this summer, it will by contrast have a number of research reports to draw on - or discard - but it does not now look likely that any of them will address squarely the central question of why many West Indians are under-achieving, by examining all the factors affecting performance, positive as well as negative, and including home backgrounds as well as potential racism in the school.

For powerful political and ethnic reasons the Committee ducked that issue when it decided not to go ahead with a project designed by Dr Peter Mortimore to do just that.



Lord Swann

Failure to commission research could not stop others embarking on their own, of course, and either publishing the findings or making them available to the committee - in either event making it necessary to take them into account if the final report is to be taken seriously. But to give the impression that certain areas of inquiry are too sensitive for the committee to handle, and to end up following rather than leading, does not inspire confidence.

A quart from a pint pot

One mild sentence in HM Inspectorate's long-delayed summary (reported last week) of the first six months of published reports says it all: "Curriculum developments are made more difficult where resources are restricted." The report is clear about the material effects of a long period of restricted resources - the decrepit and depressing buildings, serious shortages of books, quantities of apparatus and equipment nearing the end of its life. The overall picture, the inspectors say, is "gradual deterioration with a few bright but many black spots".

There are also less tangible effects. The truism in the preface of all major educational reports is: "But for the

that many great improvements can be made without extra resources. No doubt there are aspects of the inspectors' demand for a fundamental rethinking of both curriculum and teaching methods in both primary and secondary schools which could be seen as coming into that category.

But the active teaching methods sought by the Inspectorate, with plenty of discussion, practical work, investigation and problem-solving in all areas of the curriculum do have their own resource implications. The "didactic" teaching that HMI has found in so many schools is partly the traditional way of delivering the exam goods to classes which, if much smaller than they used to be, are still quite large. But it is also partly a strategy to cope with declining and deteriorating stocks of the resources needed if pupils are to work more independently.

Furthermore, the whole-school planning and development work required by the Inspectorate need time and energy. When teachers are having to work beneath leaking roofs, patch and stretch scarce teaching resources, produce their own textbook substitutes and, in practical and science subjects, scrounge consumables and do the work that should be done by technicians, they do not have much of either to spare.

Outstandingly dynamic heads and teachers will always be able to blaze trails, by attracting more than their share of in-service provision and curriculum development funds, and by inspiring teachers to work at burn-out rates. Ordinary mortals need proper professional conditions to rethink and improve their work. The Inspectorate's published reports have made it clear that, in some authorities and individual schools, those conditions simply do not exist.

no comment

"ERRATUM Page 18 paragraph headed 'Some Extra Costs', line 4: delete £15,000 substitute £50,000." From Bucks County Council booklet on secondary reorganization.

Second opinion

Holding off the knee-jerks

Two weeks ago the London underground system was closed for a day in a strike to protest at plans to abolish the Greater London Council.

Newspaper polls show that a huge majority of Londoners are in favour of keeping the GLC. But it is difficult to believe that one single convert was added to the cause by a strike that caused widespread inconvenience and disruption. Indeed, that huge majority probably became a little smaller.

The sad, but true, fact is that sitting in a traffic jam at dawn with the car radiator boiling over, most people do not blame Mrs Thatcher or Patrick Jenkin. They blame the strikers.

How much more useful it might have been if the tube trains had been running normally and passengers had been handed leaflets explaining the arguments, which the strike failed dismally to put across.

In the light of some far more imaginative and effective methods of protest within the Labour movement, the all-out strike can on some occasions appear as an old-fashioned trade union knee-jerk reaction.

The National Union of Teachers thinks harder and takes longer before jerking its knee. But with pay negotiations at an impasse and more and more local authorities budgeting for teacher job losses, the threat of industrial action - and probably strikes - in the schools, is looming large.

There have traditionally been only three methods of protest open to the teacher unions: withdrawal of goods, will, no cover action, and strike.

All three, but particularly the last, hit parents and pupils particularly hard. Ironically - as the NUT belatedly adopts more positive equal opportunities policies - the people most inconvenienced by pupils being sent home are mothers, particularly those in salaried employment, but also those working at home.

When they blame - the local authority, the government or the teachers - is debatable. As some in the Labour Party leadership have pointed out to the Liverpool councillors, it takes some pretty sophisticated political education of the electorate to make them welcome protest action which makes their lives more difficult.

One of the most effective protest mounted in the educational sphere recently has been the campaign to save the Inner London Education Authority. It has been remarkably effective in uniting disparate forces - the left and the churches for example - and in carrying thousands of parents with it through public meetings, school open days, marches and literature exploitation. It has also been a very effective party campaign, a help in this way though by no means always so.

The involvement of parents has been the key factor of success in the Save ILEA campaign. (Industrial action by teachers, interestingly, has not been particularly warmly welcomed by the ILEA leadership.) Convincing parents of the teachers' case - over the national pay claim, individual local authority budgets and the education cuts generally - is the most urgent task for the NUT.

In Barking recently, striking teachers sent leaflets to every parent, explaining their case, and certain won parental support.

It is hard to see how the union can avoid taking some industrial action, given the problems that beset it. Indeed, I believe the right to strike must always remain the ultimate weapon in the trade union armoury. But it will be that much more effective if parents have been told and understand the arguments, and ten times as effective if the parents, as they have been for ILEA, are convinced enough to join the protest marches themselves.

David L...

Study on exams finds Asians most positive

by Diane Spencer

Youngsters of South Asian origin have a more positive attitude to school and exams than either white or West Indian pupils, and they find their parents more helpful with their education.

These are among the findings of a research project now being studied by the Swann committee investigating the education of ethnic minority children.

The committee is due to publish its long-awaited final report in the summer. At its last meeting members discussed how the findings could be incorporated into the report.

Some felt that the research had revealed nothing new, and urged that care should be taken in summarizing the findings. Pressure from Afro-Caribbean groups forced the committee 18 months ago to abandon a £70,000 project under Dr Peter Mortimore of the Inner London Education Authority, on factors affecting West Indian achievement. The groups thought it would concentrate on the family and home background.

Many black educationists argue that enough is known about that aspect. Instead, research is needed on teacher attitudes, racism and the impact of the curriculum on black children.

The latest findings are based on interviews with 1,500 pupils from nine schools in Bradford and Leeds in three phases over six years by Dr Gajendra Verma (also a member of the Swann committee) and Mr Brandon Ashworth, both from Bradford University. The final phase of the project was backed by the Department of Education and Science.

The study shows how levels of maternal and paternal interest, use of mother tongue at home, self-esteem, school attendance and attitudes, as well as social class affect English, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, West Indian and Indian children.

Other findings include: ● One in five Bangladeshi and Pakistani pupils says school is helpful in passing exams - about the same as whites - but only 1 in 10 West Indian-origin pupils believes the school environment helps; one in two children of Indian origin rates school highly.

16-plus science uniformity

Ministers are seeking greater uniformity among combined science courses leading to the proposed new exams at 16-plus.

They are also insisting that the guidelines for these courses should be in close agreement for those relating to the separate sciences of physics, chemistry and biology.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, and Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Welsh Secretary, are critical of plans put forward by the exam boards. They say their approach is "likely to

● More than two out of three whites and South Asians see a strong link between passing exams and employment, compared with 40 per cent of West Indians, who said exams were little or no help in getting jobs.

● Only 44 per cent of West Indian children found their parents helpful in getting them through exams, compared with 60 per cent of whites and 70 per cent of Asians.

● Self-esteem was found to be important to educational success. Asians derived this from home and school, while West Indians looked to their peer groups.

● West Indian and white mothers had a greater influence than fathers on the children.

● Twenty per cent of West Indian pupils claimed they did not enjoy school at all, compared with 12.2 per cent of whites and 2.2 per cent of Indians.

The Swann committee will also be drawing on other research: a vast review of existing research by the National Foundation for Education Research has been completed, Professor Maurice Craft of Nottingham University has studied teacher training and minority languages. Professor John Rex's team at Aston University looked at multicultural education policies in four education authorities. Professor Nicholas Macintosh of Cambridge University has presented a paper on the IQ debate, and two independent white schools in six L.E.A.s are preparing for a multicultural society.

And the school-leaver survey showing exam results, commissioned for the interim report on West Indian pupils is being repeated. But this time only five education authorities took part because the London borough of Brent refused to cooperate. The earlier findings showed that West Indian children were five times less likely to get five or more O levels than whites or Asians.

Provided there are no big upsets, the committee is due to meet early next month almost for the last time, to consider the whole report. The 22 members - 13 of them have stayed the full course - have seen nearly all the contents, but in separate chapters.

They suggest that combined science syllabuses should preserve "a proper balance" among elements drawn from the single sciences.

Sir Keith, in a letter to Sir Wilfred Cockcroft, chairman of the Secondary Examinations Council, says all science exams should have a range of exam papers tailored to candidates' abilities, assess experimental skills by a practical test in the lab and lay stress on applications.

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Certifying standards urged

by Biddy Passmore

Grouped school leaving certificates and higher school for mathematics teachers were urged this week by the man whose research provided much of the impetus behind the drive to raise standards announced in January by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary.

Professor Sig Prais, who has conducted comparative studies of vocational training in Britain and West Germany, told a Lords select committee on Wednesday he thought the Government's timetable was too slow.

In a memorandum to the subcommittee, which is looking at vocational training in the EEC, he said: "Are we

not taking too much time working out everything as if 'from first principles', when examples from abroad would provide short-cuts?"

"If an adequate thought been given to the establishment of 'curriculum centres' and 'model schools', Nationally-recognized school-leaving certificates' (as for the old matriculation requirements) should be introduced to encourage school attainments in a basic core of subjects - which must include mathematics - and should be issued at various levels of attainment."

(The Government favours the introduction of a grouped certificate but has



NAB concern on I levels

A central definition of matriculation for higher education might be the only way to secure a proper general education in schools, it was suggested this week by Mr Christopher Ball (left), chairman of the board of the National Advisory Body for local authority higher education.

He expressed doubts that university and college admissions officers would treat a broader pattern of sixth form studies (to be introduced through I levels) as the equivalent of the more specialized pattern.

He endorsed the concern of Oxford University, which has told the University Grants Committee it fears that a broader pattern of studies would be seen mainly as appropriate to the less academic sixth-formers.

Speaking at a Cambridge confer-

ence on admissions to higher education organized by the National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling, he also suggested the time might have come to restrict students' freedom to choose courses and institutions - and the freedom of teachers to choose their own pupils.

In addition to a central definition of matriculation (to be framed by the Education Secretary), he suggested that more students could be directed towards their local institutions or that candidates could be distributed on a random basis between institutions offering the chosen course.

Such possible limitations struck one as "strange and unattractive", he admitted, yet one could readily see advantages in each.

Under-fives fund still flows

by Sarah Bayliss

The £2m "Under Five Initiative", intended to help voluntary organizations and charities, has been extended for a further six months by the Government.

At its annual conference last weekend at the University of Exeter, the Pre-School Playgroups Association was told by Mr Anthony Newton, junior minister at the Department of Health and Social Security, that the scheme was being extended to allow more take-up of the funds.

The scheme was announced in March 1983, but in most cases cash did not reach local groups until Christmas. Now cash will be available until September 1986. Mrs Jenny Mauger, a member of the PPA's National Executive and chairperson of the PPA's panel for distributing initiative funds, said playgroups had already received about £20,000 and a further £40,000 was expected over the next two years.

A limit of £500 has been set for each application to help as many playgroups as possible. Many grants were spent on emergency repairs to buildings, the provision of storage cupboards but also on rents and salaries. "The longer the scheme goes on, the better. We've had absolutely no trouble in spending the money and we can see no slackening in demand," she said.

The PPA also received a one-off grant from the scheme to fund a "parent-pack", describing how playgroups worked and how they could be set up.

Mr Newton told the 1,600 people present that he was aware that involvement in playgroups could lead parents into training courses and, ultimately, into new careers.

The PPA, which is still waiting to hear what the national grant from the DHSS is to be this year, was urged by the minister to continue to seek funds from other sources and to raise as much cash as possible.

Mrs Moira Maclean, a speaker from Scotland, described how her work as a prison visitor had led her to set up a PPA-style training course for fathers in prison.

Parents tell Redbridge to make schools fully comprehensive

Parents have once again rejected a Conservative-controlled council's plan to extend selective education.

A Harris Poll commissioned by the London borough of Redbridge asked parents if they wanted to return to a fully selective system (involving an increase from two to four grammar schools) or if they wanted simply to keep the two grammars.

But the majority - 53 per cent - of the 7,000 who replied wanted neither. They preferred a fully comprehensive system, with 5 per cent expressing a preference for a sixth form college.

Only 15 per cent opted for a fully selective system and 26 per cent for the status quo. Mr John Ramsden, chair-

man of the education committee, had said he would reconsider if neither of his preferred options gained support.

Officials are now drawing up a report in the light of the poll which will be discussed by the schools subcommittee at the end of the month.

Meanwhile, opposition is growing in Stroud to Gloucestershire County Council's plan to replace two single-sex grammar schools with one mixed grammar instead of introducing a comprehensive system with a sixth form college.

The reorganization scheme, prompted by falling rolls, was passed by only one vote by the education committee and may still be overturned at or before the full council on May 2.

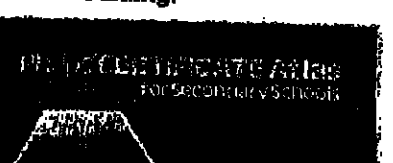
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PLATFORM

NEWS



Arts and social science courses... high vocational relevance



Higher percentage of students in Britain than in many countries take science degrees

The arts come out fighting

Faculty deans from all over Britain have produced a hard-hitting response to the call by the UGC chairman Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer for more good students to be channelled to science-related courses. And, as Martin Milligan explains, their reply is a landmark in the process of a growing common front among the universities.

Among the many letters now pouring in upon Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee, in response to his letter to universities of last November, there is one which must stand out for two reasons. The first is that it comes from somewhere nearer the grassroots of university life than many of the communications he receives, and the second is that it is not a letter from a particular university, but an inter-university letter.

It is signed, in fact, by more than 50 deans of arts and social studies in 30 universities and university colleges from Aberdeen and Dundee to Southampton and Swansea. There are several signatures from Oxford, though none from Cambridge; few from London, but many from the northern universities.

Collective, inter-university action of this kind is unprecedented. It is a response to what is seen as the unprecedented dangers now threatening universities.

Further major reductions in resources per student with a "no replacement" rate for university staff during the next five years; large scale compulsory early retirements of staff without the kind of financial compensation offered during the past two years; the total closure of some institutions of

higher education and the removal of support for research in others; and a requirement of universities to rely increasingly on private funding, are all clearly indicated as serious possibilities for the next decade in Sir Peter's letter.

He invites universities to consider how to meet the Secretary of State's desire for greater vocational relevance in higher education, and also his desire that more good students should be switched from arts-related to science-related courses. Worst of all, Sir Peter asks universities to accept as inevitable a fall of from 15 per cent to 20 per cent in student numbers over the next decade, because of the fall in the birth rate during most of the seventies.

In their letter, the deans reject this whole prospect. They argue that reliance on private rather than public funding is likely to decrease rather than increase universities' freedom, and that in any case universities in this country are bound to remain overwhelmingly dependant on public funding. Recognizing Britain's present economic difficulties, they nevertheless contend that it is wholly proper, especially during a period such as the next decade for which economic growth is predicted, to spend increasing amounts of public money on universities and other institutions of higher education, because of both the vocational and the non-vocational relevance of what they have to offer.

(As regards vocational relevance they point to the trend among employers increasingly to look for graduates, and specifically to the expectation of the DES itself that more graduates will be required for the teaching profession within the next five years.)

They also argue that predictions of a large fall in demand for student places are likely to prove, to say the least, greatly exaggerated.

In all this, the deans' response is quite similar to those of many individual universities. But there are some special features of their letter.

One is their emphasis on the desirability of opening up universities in an unprecedented way to older students

who have already enjoyed a period of higher education, but who are in need of refresher or re-orientation courses. They add: "At a time of high unemployment, some of it due to the outdated of knowledge and skills, this would not be as costly to the community as it might be at other times and it seems to us to be both an economic and a moral imperative."

"An adequate response to this imperative could help to correct one of the serious deficiencies of university life up to the present - the too narrow range of social background and experience represented in the student population."

A second special feature of their letter is their response to the proposal to encourage more students to switch from arts to science. They cite a recent

study (reported in the appendix to volume 10 of the Leverhulme Studies on higher education) of the distribution of students among disciplines in different countries, which has come up with the conclusion that "the British percentage of university students enrolled in courses leading to degrees in science and technology (engineering courses) was significantly higher throughout the seventies than in virtually all other Western European countries and the United States (close to 40 per cent in the UK as against 20 to 30 per cent elsewhere)."

They suggest that this emphasis on science and technology as against the arts and social sciences is not new but old; that it has not been successful in its aim of markedly improving British economic performance, and that the production of large numbers of scientists and technologists with little knowledge and understanding of the arts or the social sciences is dangerous.

But the deans do not just argue for more arts and less science. "What our community greatly needs is a much larger number of people reasonably educated in both arts-related and science-related subjects, and we therefore suggest that... the introduction of some science teaching as a subsidiary and, perhaps, optional element into first degree arts courses, and the introduction of some arts and social studies teaching on a similar basis into science courses, deserves to be seriously considered."

They combine this suggestion with a welcome for the idea of broader sixth-form curricula (signalling, perhaps, a significant shift in university opinion on this matter), with the possibility this would provide for more school students to continue with science, arts and social studies right through school.

The deans argue at the same time, however, that even as they stand university arts and social studies courses have both high vocational relevance - unemployment among arts graduates is not significantly higher than among science graduates - and a social and cultural value such that it is of the greatest importance to society at large that more and more people should be given access to them.

A third very distinctive feature of the deans' letter is that, at a time when the Government has been thinking of shortening degree courses, they set out a case for four-year rather than three-year honours degree courses, which they ask should be given serious consideration, for implementation in the early nineties.

"The knowledge explosion", they say, "is no empty phrase: during the last 30 years or so the rate at which knowledge has expanded has been so great that it has become extremely difficult simultaneously to give students some sense of the history of their subjects and to bring them abreast of the current state of their subjects within three years."

They relate this to their acceptance of broad sixth-forms, pointing out that in Western Europe and North America where school curricula are

already broader, first degree university courses generally last for four or more years. They also relate this to their own desire for broader university courses, not only to allow for more of an arts-science mix, but also to allow students to become acquainted with a wider range of disciplines within their own faculties.

"It remains absolutely essential that universities should primarily produce specialists, but the broadening of which we have been speaking are increasingly required by the specialisms themselves; and since there is simply not room for both the breadth, the universality, and also for the specialization which is proper to universities within the constraints of three-year first degree courses, we believe that their replacement cannot be much longer delayed without serious damage to our work."

The survey, carried out by the Advisory Centre for Education and published in the current issue of *Where*, showed that most authorities had standard procedures for dealing with non-attendance at school, and that in the majority of cases this was the responsibility of the education welfare service.

But beyond that procedure varied considerably, particularly in the use of attendance panels, in the degree of liaison with the police, and in the involvement of social services departments.

Attendance panels are used in a wide variety of ways. Derbyshire has large panel meetings comprising the parents, school governors, head, education welfare officers, and possibly health and social services representatives, but in Walsall pupils are invited to go before a meeting of the

attendance subcommittee. Rotherham has a school attendance inquiry panel which can take legal proceedings on behalf of the local authorities.

Police liaison varies from almost nothing - Croydon and Newham said firmly that the police had no powers with respect to truancy - through variety of formal training arrangements and more general liaison, to the situation in Gwent where police carry out "purges" in cafes and amusement arcades.

Most I.e.a.s involve the social services department when juvenile court proceedings are being considered, although a few - Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Rotherham, Sheffield and Havering - tend to decide unilaterally about legal action. Croydon and Hounslow, on the other hand, leave proceedings entirely to their social services departments.

Section 40 of the 1944 Education Act empowers magistrates in adult courts to direct a local authority to bring proceedings in the juvenile courts on the grounds that a child is not attending school and is beyond the control of his parents.

The numbers of such directions vary, reflecting differing attitudes of magistrates' benches. In Avon, the justices' clerks take the view that a direction is unnecessary because I.e.a.s can initiate their own proceedings under the 1969 Children and Young Persons Act. But in Norfolk, "we are constantly having meetings with the various juvenile magistrates panels to see how this type of action could be avoided, as we feel this should be a professional decision".

Nevertheless, some I.e.a.s have found it a useful device when a child is not attending school, but there is no further evidence that he is beyond the

control of his parents. Authorities reported some success through careful casework and counselling. Newham said its system of attaching a welfare officer to secondary schools and their feeder primary schools, so that they followed children throughout their school career, had worked better than an area-based system.

Special programmes, often intermediate treatment provision for "at risk" children, had also been successful at times, while a number of authorities favoured the system of having the juvenile court adjourn the case each time a child appeared in court, with the aim of seeing if school attendance would improve.

Hillingdon mentioned success with family therapy, and Hounslow with meetings involving the school, parents and child.

A circular advising local education authorities how to cut truancy will be issued by the Department of Education and Science later this year, *Biddy Passmore* writes.

The plan to issue a circular was disclosed by Mr Bob Dunn, junior schools minister, in a written parliamentary answer last week. But he added that its contents had not yet been settled.

An anti-truancy drive was promised in last year's Conservative Manifesto, which said the Government would "switch the emphasis in the Education Welfare Service back to school attendance, so as to reduce truancy".

The circular may propose that each school governing body should report parents to the local education authority on the school's attendance record and that authorities should in turn send progress reports to the Department of Education.

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"It is traditional, but not playing it is one of the means of lowering standards in this country"



'Playing hockey'... some authorities are tougher than others.

Big discrepancy found in I.e.a.s' truancy approach

by Hilary Wilce

Local education authorities vary greatly in their readiness to prosecute parents for their children's truancy, according to a survey published this week.

The survey, of how 48 authorities deal with non-attendance, showed great differences in the number of school attendance prosecutions brought in 1981-82. While the Inner London Education Authority brought 594, Birmingham brought 287 and Hounslow 189, Gateshead brought none. Walsall four, and Hounslow five.

The variations appear to relate more to the relative punitiveness of different authorities than to the size of their problem. Bradford, Calderdale and Croydon, for example, all said they favoured swift court action, while others, such as Derbyshire and Devon, emphasized the social work role of their education welfare officers.

The survey, carried out by the Advisory Centre for Education and published in the current issue of *Where*, showed that most authorities had standard procedures for dealing with non-attendance at school, and that in the majority of cases this was the responsibility of the education welfare service.

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Dividing courses fails to help adults

The tendency to divide adult education into vocational courses for young people and leisure classes carrying no qualifications was attacked this week by Mr John Stradling Thomas, the Minister of State for Wales.

Speaking at the annual study conference of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education in Bangor, Mr Thomas said: "The experience of the educational needs of those in middle and later life who have had to face unemployment and the consequent need to adjust to their situation and to take stock of the options which are open to them has shown just how crude this approach is."

He hoped the three-year programme recently announced by the Government to encourage suitable education provision for unemployed adults would break down these artificial distinctions, particularly through the collaboration between "two bodies which superficially may be seen as epitomizing the dichotomy", the NIACE and the Further Education Unit.

Mr Thomas acknowledged the widespread disappointment at the Government's rejection of a national develop-

ment council for adult education, but reiterated that "a large council with a substantial budget could not be justified as things stand".

He welcomed the NIACE's agreement to set up an Adult Continuing Development Unit and said the Government would be drawing its attention to the importance of educational information and guidance for adults, the need to look at the position of volunteers and the challenge posed by the increasing numbers of elderly people.

The Government wished to move forward through diverse agencies, including the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, which is now to continue until at least 1988, and the PICKUP initiative to promote post-experience vocational up-dating courses. A development agent for this initiative is now to be appointed for Wales, Mr Thomas said.

Over the Government was adding over £100,000 to adult continuing education in Wales this financial year, he said, and also supporting activities concerned with teaching Welsh with grants of £120,000.

Minister seeks major shake-up in UNESCO

Britain's demands that significant changes should take place within UNESCO, the international educational and cultural organization, will be discussed in London next Wednesday, *Hilary Wilce* writes.

Talks are to take place between Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, the director-general of UNESCO, and Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of Overseas Development.

In a letter sent to Mr M'Bow 10 days ago, Mr Raison called for radical improvements in UNESCO's programmes and procedures. He named specific areas where changes were deemed necessary and demanded that there be "significant indications of change" by the end of the year.

The letter, a result of widespread and deep-rooted dissatisfaction with an organization which even its mildest critics agree has become hopelessly bureaucratic, came after the decision by the United States to withdraw from UNESCO, but is the result of a review of British policy towards the organization, conducted before the American decision last year.

At the time, the possibility of withdrawing from UNESCO was seriously considered - as Mr Raison's letter makes clear.

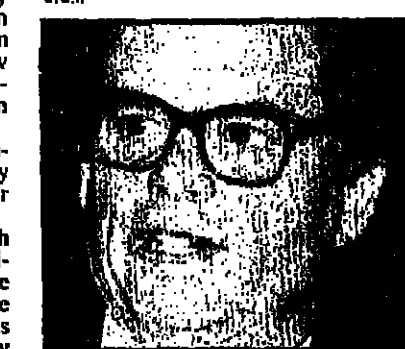
Like the United States, the British Government is worried by the politicization of the organization, by the high costs of administration at the Paris Headquarters, and by attempts to restrict the freedom of the press by establishing a "new world information

and communication order". His proposals include giving greater priority to programmes in education, science and culture, and lower priority to those in future studies, communications, peace and disarmament and human rights, and improving public information about UNESCO.

They suggest a standstill or reduced budget for 1986/87, fewer meetings, fewer documents, more coordination with other United Nations agencies, and more action programmes in the field.

Improved evaluation is one area where some immediate progress is expected, and decentralization is called for.

The letter was timed to arrive on Mr M'Bow's desk shortly before he was due to visit London for a meeting of the heads of all United Nations agencies.



Timothy Raison

Stand-up row over anthem

The head of a comprehensive in South Yorkshire has banned the national anthem from his school's musical production.

The head of King Egberts in Sheffield, Mr Frank Abel, said: "I'm not an monarchist. I have never said a single thing to that effect."

Mr Abel said pupils had asked for the anthem to be played before this week's performances of *My Fair Lady*. He had refused and still refused despite a petition signed by half the 100-pupil cast.

He believes the playing of the anthem is an outmoded tradition, applicable only at national and international events and when royalty is

present: "If we had royalty I would gladly play it."

The whole thing had got out of hand and he was disappointed in the sixth-formers who organized the petition. He claimed he had full support from staff involved in the production.

He and co-director Mr Mark Radman, a teacher at the school, decided against having the anthem.

But Mrs Pat Davey, a Conservative councillor, commented: "The anthem is nothing to do with royalty - it is the national anthem of this country."

"It is traditional, but not playing it is one of the means of lowering standards in this country"

Support grants now law

by Biddy Passmore

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, hopes to meet local authority representatives next month to discuss what activities he should support through the new education support grants, to be introduced next year.

The Bill giving him the power to make the grants received the Royal Assent yesterday. It enables him to distribute 1/2 per cent of the aim funded for local authority spending on education, which would be £50m in 1985-86. The grants will meet between 50 and 70 per cent of the cost of each selected project.

Selected members of the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which are opposed to the principle of the new grants, have so far refused to discuss with ministers what they might cover.

But talks have been going on at officer level and 10 areas of activity have

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The wounded carthorse

Christopher Price charts the decline in power and influence of the National Union of Teachers.

Next week's TES



Arts and social science courses... high vocational relevance



Higher percentage of students in Britain than in many countries take science degrees

The arts come out fighting

Faculty deans from all over Britain have produced a hard-hitting response to the call by the UGC chairman Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer for more good students to be channelled to science-related courses. And, as Martin Milligan explains, their reply is a landmark in the process of a growing common front among the universities.

Among the many letters now pouring in upon Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee, in response to his letter to universities of last November, there is one which must stand out for two reasons.

The first is that it comes from somewhere nearer the grassroots of university life than many of the communications he receives, and the second is that it is not a letter from a particular university, but an inter-university letter.

It is signed, in fact, by more than 50 deans of their equivalents from faculties of arts and social studies in 20 universities and university colleges from Aberdeen and Dundee to Southampton and Swansea. There are several signatures from Oxford, though none from Cambridge: few from London, but many from the northern universities.

Collective, inter-university action of this kind is unprecedented. It is a response to what is seen as the unprecedented dangers now threatening universities.

Further major reductions in resource per student with a "no replacement" rate for university staff during the next five years; large scale compulsory early retirements of staff without the kind of financial compensation offered during the past two years; the total closure of some institutions of

higher education and the removal of support for research in others; and a requirement of universities to rely increasingly on private funding, are all clearly indicated as serious possibilities for the next decade in Sir Peter's letter.

He invites universities to consider how to meet the Secretary of State's desire for greater vocational relevance in higher education, and also his desire that more good students should be switched from arts-related to science-related courses. Worst of all, Sir Peter asks universities to accept as inevitable a fall of from 15 per cent to 20 per cent in student numbers over the next decade, because of the fall in the birth rate during most of the seventies.

In their letter, the deans reject this whole prospect. They argue that reliance on private rather than public funding is likely to decrease rather than increase universities' freedom, and that in any case universities in this country are bound to remain overwhelmingly dependent on public funding. Recognizing Britain's present economic difficulties, they nevertheless contend that it is wholly proper, especially during a period such as the next decade for which economic growth is predicted, to spend increasing amounts of public money on universities and other institutions of higher education, because of both the vocational and the non-vocational relevance of what they have to offer.

(As regards vocational relevance they point to the trend among employers increasingly to look for graduates, and specifically to the expectation of the DES itself that most graduates will be required for the teaching profession within the next five years.)

They also argue that predictions of a large fall in demand for student places are likely to prove, to say the least, greatly exaggerated.

In all this, the deans' response is quite similar to those of many individual universities. But there are some special features of their letter.

One is their emphasis on the desirability of opening up universities to an unprecedented way to offer students both to the scores of thousands of exceptionally able people who origi-

nally dropped out of the education system before they were able to apply for university places, and also to some who have already enjoyed a period of higher education, but who are in need of a refresher or re-orientation course.

They add: "At a time of high unemployment, some of it due to the outdated knowledge and skills, this would not be as costly to the community as it might be at other times and it seems to us to be both an economic and a moral imperative."

"An adequate response to this imperative could help to correct one of the serious deficiencies of university life up to the present - the too narrow range of social background and experience represented in the student population."

A second special feature of their letter is their response to the proposal to encourage more students to switch from arts to science. They cite a recent

study (reported in the appendix to volume 10 of the Leverhulme Studies on higher education) of the distribution of students among disciplines in different countries, which has come up with the conclusion that "the British percentage of university students enrolled in courses leading to degrees in science and technology (engineering courses) was significantly higher throughout the seventies than in virtually all other Western European countries and the United States (close to 40 per cent in the UK as against 20 to 30 per cent elsewhere)."

They suggest that this emphasis on science and technology is against the aim of markedly improving British economic performance, and that the production of large numbers of scientists and technologists with little knowledge and understanding of the arts or the social sciences is dangerous.

But the deans do not just argue for more arts and less science. "What our community greatly needs is a much larger number of people reasonably educated in both arts-related and science-related subjects, and we therefore suggest that... the introduction of some science teaching as a subsidiary and, perhaps, optional element into first degree arts courses, and the introduction of some arts and social studies teaching on a similar basis into science courses, deserves to be seriously considered."

They combine this suggestion with a welcome for the idea of broader sixth-form curricula (signalling, perhaps, a significant shift in university opinion on this matter), with the possibility this would provide for more school students to continue with science, arts and social studies right through school.

The deans argue at the same time, however, that even as they stand university arts and social studies courses have both high vocational relevance - unemployment among arts graduates is not significantly higher than among science graduates - and a social and cultural value such that it is of the greatest importance to society at large that more and more people should be given access to them.

A third very distinctive feature of the deans' letter is that, at a time when the Government has been thinking of shortening degree courses, they set out a case for four-year rather than three-year honours degree courses, which they ask should be given serious consideration, for implementation in the early nineties.

"The knowledge explosion", they say, "is no empty phrase: during the last 30 years or so the rate at which knowledge has expanded has been so great that it has become extremely difficult simultaneously to give students some sense of the history of their subjects and to bring them abreast of the current state of their subjects within three years."

already broader, first degree university courses generally last for four or more years. They also relate this to their own desire for broader university courses, not only to allow for more of an arts-science mix, but also to allow students to become acquainted with a wider range of disciplines within their own faculties.

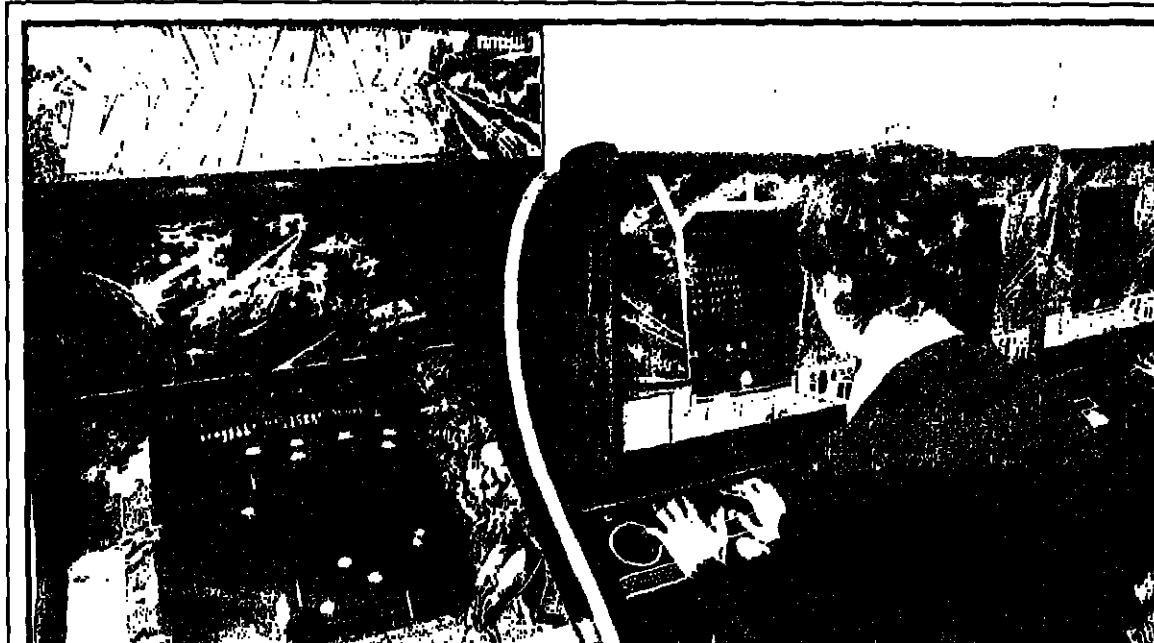
"It remains absolutely essential that universities should primarily produce specialists, but the broadening of which we have been speaking are increasingly required by the specialists themselves; and since there is simply not room for both the breadth, the universality, and also for the specialization which is proper to universities within the constraints of three-year first degree courses, we believe that their replacement cannot be much longer delayed without serious damage to our work."

The deans see this proposal as complementary to, rather than incompatible with, their proposal to open up the universities to more mature students, some of whom, they admit, may only want and need short courses, but many of whom will have been away from formal education for a long time.

The deans see their letter as only the first small step in a process whereby universities will come closer together to work out coordinated responses to common problems and national needs. The immediate step in that process would be a conference of representatives of faculties of arts and social studies to be held at Leeds University next Monday. It does seem that the universities are at last beginning to talk to each other and to the outside world.

Martin Milligan is head of the philosophy department and dean of the arts faculty at Leeds University.

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Next week's TES



"Playing hooky" ... some authorities are tougher than others.

Big discrepancy found in l.e.a.s' truancy approach

by Hilary Wilce

Local education authorities vary greatly in their readiness to prosecute parents for their children's truancy, according to a survey published this week.

The survey, of how 48 authorities deal with non-attendance, showed great differences in the number of school attendance prosecutions brought in 1981-82. While the Inner London Education Authority brought 594, Birmingham brought 287 and Humberston 189, Gateshead brought none, Walsall four, and Hounslow five.

The variations appear to relate more to the relative punitiveness of different authorities than to the size of their problem. Bradford, Calderdale and Crofton, for example, all said they favoured swift court action, while others, such as Derbyshire and Devon, emphasized the social work role of their education welfare officers.

The survey, carried out by the Advisory Centre for Education and published in the current issue of *Where*, showed that most authorities had standard procedures for dealing with non-attendance at school, and that in the majority of cases this was the responsibility of the education welfare service.

But beyond that procedure varied considerably, particularly in the use of attendance panels, in the degree of liaison with the police, and in the involvement of social services departments.

Attendance panels are used in a wide variety of ways. Derbyshire has large panel meetings comprising the parents, school governors, head, education welfare officers, and possibly health and social services representatives, but in Walsall pupils are invited to go before a meeting of the

attendance subcommittee. Rotherham has a school attendance inquiry panel which can take legal proceedings on behalf of the local authorities.

Police liaison varies from almost nothing - Crofton and Newham said firmly that the police had no powers with respect to truancy - through a variety of formal truanting arrangements and more general liaison, to the situation in Gwent where police carry out "purges" in cafes and amusement arcades.

Most l.e.a.s involve the social services department when juvenile court proceedings are being considered, although a few - Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Rotherham, Sheffield and Havering - tend to decide internally about legal action. Crofton and Hounslow, on the other hand, leave proceedings entirely to their social services departments.

Section 40 of the 1944 Education Act empowers magistrates in adult courts to direct a local authority to bring proceedings in the juvenile courts on the grounds that a child is not attending school and is beyond the control of his parents.

The numbers of such directions vary, reflecting differing attitudes of magistrates benches. In Avon, the justices' clerks take the view that a direction is unnecessary because l.e.a.s can initiate their own proceedings under the 1969 Children and Young Persons Act. But in Norfolk, "we are constantly having meetings with the various juvenile magistrates panels to see how this type of action could be avoided, as we feel this should be a professional decision."

Nevertheless, some l.e.a.s have found it a useful device when a child is not attending school, but there is no further evidence that he is beyond the

control of his parents.

Authorities reported some success through careful casework and counselling. Newham said its system of attaching a welfare officer to secondary schools and their feeder primary schools, so that they followed children throughout their school career, had worked better than an area-based system.

Special programmes, often intermediate treatment provision for "at risk" children, had also been successful at times, while a number of authorities favoured the system of having the juvenile court adjourn the case each time a child appeared in court, with the aim of seeing if school attendance would improve.

Hillingdon mentioned success with family therapy, and Hounslow with meetings involving the school, parents and child.

A circular advising local education authorities how to cut truancy will be issued by the Department of Education and Science later this year, *Biddy Passmore* writes.

The plan to issue a circular was disclosed by Mr Bob Dunn, junior schools minister, in a written parliamentary answer last week. But he added that its contents had not yet been settled.

An anti-truancy drive was promised in last year's Conservative Manifesto, which said the Government would "switch the emphasis in the Education Welfare Service back to school attendance, so as to reduce truancy."

The circular may propose that each school governing body should report regularly to the local education authority on the school's attendance record and that authorities should in turn send progress reports to the Department of Education.

Dividing courses fails to help adults

The tendency to divide adult education into vocational courses for young people and leisure classes carrying no qualifications was attacked this week by Mr John Stridling Thomas, the Minister of State for Wales.

Speaking at the annual study conference of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education in Bangor, Mr Thomas said: "The experience of the educational needs of those in middle and later life who have had to face unemployment and the consequent need to adjust to their situation and to take stock of the options which are open to them has shown just how crude this approach is."

He hoped the three-year programme recently announced by the Government to encourage suitable education provision for unemployed adults would break down these artificial distinctions, particularly through the collaboration between "two bodies which superficially may be seen as epitomizing the dichotomy" the NIACE and the Further Education Unit.

Mr Thomas acknowledged the widespread disappointment at the Government's rejection of a national develop-

ment council for adult education, but reiterated that "a large council with a substantial budget could not be justified as things stand".

He welcomed the NIACE's agreement to set up an Adult Continuing Development Unit and said the Government would be drawing its attention to the importance of educational information and guidance for adults, the need to look at the position of volunteers and the challenge posed by the increasing numbers of elderly people.

The Government wished to move forward through diverse agencies, including the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, which is now to continue until at least 1988, and the PICKUP initiative to promote post-experience vocational up-dating courses. A development agent for this initiative is now to be appointed for Wales, Mr Thomas said.

Overall, the Government was adding over £100,000 to adult continuing education in Wales this financial year, he said, and also supporting activities concerned with teaching Welsh with grants of £120,000.

Minister seeks major shake-up in UNESCO

Britain's demands that significant changes should take place within UNESCO, the international educational and cultural organization, will be discussed in London next Wednesday, *Hilary Wilce* writes.

Talks are to take place between Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, the director-general of UNESCO, and Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of Overseas Development.

In a letter sent to Mr M'Bow 10 days ago, Mr Raison called for radical improvements in UNESCO's programmes and procedures. He named specific areas where changes were deemed necessary and demanded that there be "significant indications of change" by the end of the year.

The letter, a result of widespread and deep-rooted dissatisfaction with an organization which even its mildest critics agree has become hopelessly bureaucratic, came after the decision by the United States to withdraw from UNESCO, but is the result of a review of British policy towards the organization, conducted before the American decision last year.

At the time, the possibility of withdrawing from UNESCO was seriously considered - as Mr Raison's letter makes clear.

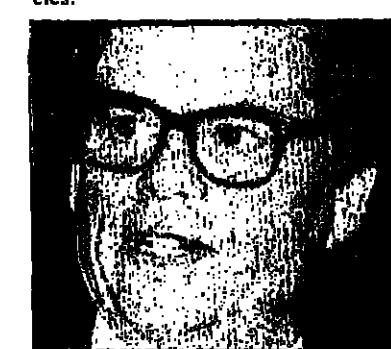
Like the United States, the British Government is worried by the politicization of the organization, by the high costs of administration at the Paris Headquarters, and by attempts to restrict the freedom of the press by establishing a "new world information

and communication order". His proposals include giving greater priority to programmes in education, science and culture, and lower priority to those in future studies, communications, peace and disarmament and human rights, and improving public information about UNESCO.

They suggest a standstill or reduced budget for 1986/87, fewer meetings, fewer documents, more coordination with other United Nations agencies, and more action programmes in the field.

Improved evaluation is one area where some immediate progress is expected, and decentralization is called for.

The letter was timed to arrive on Mr M'Bow's desk shortly before he was due to visit London for a meeting of the heads of all United Nations agencies.



Timothy Raison

Stand-up row over anthem

The head of a comprehensive in South Yorkshire has banned the national anthem from his school's musical production.

The head of King Egberts in Sheffield, Mr Frank Abel, said: "I'm not anti-monarchist. I have never said a single thing to that effect."

Mr Abel said pupils had asked for the anthem to be played before this week's performance of *My Fair Lady*. He had refused and still refused despite a petition signed by half the (UO-pupil) cast.

He believes the playing of the anthem is an outmoded tradition, applicable only at national and international events and when royalty is

present: "If we had royalty I would gladly play it."

The whole thing had got out of hand and he was disappointed in the sixth-formers who organized the petition. He claimed he had full support from staff involved in the production.

He and co-director Mr Mark Radnan, a teacher at the school, decided against having the anthem.

But Mrs Pat Davey, a Conservative councillor, commented: "The anthem is nothing to do with royalty - it is the national anthem of this country."

"It is traditional, but not playing it is one of the means of lowering standards in this country"

Death of Peter Turner

Peter Turner, Inspector for Educational Technology and chairman of the Educational Television Association, has died at the age of 58.

Mr Turner was Chairman of the Southern Region of the Educational Television Association at the time of his death.

Support grants now law

by Biddy Passmore

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, hopes to meet local authority representatives next month to discuss what activities he should support through the new education support grants to be introduced next year.

The Bill giving him the power to make the grants received the Royal Assent yesterday. It enables him to distribute 1/2 per cent of the sum planned for local authority spending on education, which would be £50m in 1985-86. The grants will meet between 50 and 70 per cent of the cost of each selected project.

Elected members of the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which are opposed to the principle of the new grants, have so far refused to discuss with ministers what they might cover. But talks have been going on at officer level and 10 areas of activity have

been agreed provisionally. They are: pilot schemes on pupil records, Cockcroft follow-up, curriculum enrichment in rural and inner city primary schools, management and deployment of the teaching force, micro-informal technology in non-manned further education, adult education for the unemployed and start-up costs of PICKUP courses.

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Rates Bill likely to survive Lords mauling

Opponents in the Lords of the Government's rates Bill are likely to succeed in placing further controls on ministers' rate-capping powers.

But after the defeat on its Second Reading on Monday of an amendment opposing the principle of the Bill, the Government seems certain to get the legislation through.

Even the deletion of part II of the Bill - containing reserve powers to limit rate rises in all councils - now seems less likely in the light of the Government Whips' determination to avoid disasters.

The Opposition amendment, warning that the Bill would result in damaging constitutional changes in the relationship between central and local government and calling for a thorough reform of local government finance, was defeated by 235 votes to 153. The Lords - in keeping with tradition - then gave the Bill an unopposed Second Reading.

Lady Birk moved the amendment and was supported by other Labour peers, 18 cross-benchers, four bishops and two Conservatives. Lord Ridley, Conservative president of the Association of County Councils, spoke against the Bill but then abstained in the vote.

He gave a clear indication, however, of what sort of amendments will be necessary if the Bill is to get through the Lords. The ministers' intention of including only some 12 to 20 authorities in the selective scheme should be put into the Bill, he said, as should a definition of the principles on which those authorities' rates should be capped.

"It is not good enough to leave it to the whim of any Secretary of State, as the Bill now does," he said. "It is only too easy to move the goal posts in the middle of the game."

Opening the debate, Lord Bellwin, environment junior minister, had attacked the "dreadful distortions" and "wild stories" put out by opponents of the Bill. Only the total budget of an authority would be constrained, he stressed, not the way it was spent.

Lord Beloff said it was "straining credulity" for the Labour Party to present itself as a defender of local democracy.

They might not be so keen on local democracy if a directly-elected ILEA, having got rid of "Mrs Morrell and her friends," decided that London could do with a few grammar schools, he suggested.



Double birdies clinch it

Birdies at the last two holes by 16-year-old Peter Adams (pictured) clinched victory for Solihull School in last week's English national finals of the Aer Lingus Schools' Golf Championship at Cape Heath in the West Midlands. Five-handicap Adams, youngest of the three-man team, shot a 77 to edge out Millfield, twice winners of the international trophy. King Henry VIII School from Coventry finished third among the 29 finalists. Solihull go forward to represent England in the international finals to be held in the Irish Republic next month. National finals for the other home countries take place later this month.

Keep up to date, FE urged

Further education must keep abreast of change as it has a crucial role to play in Britain's future, Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, said last week.

Speaking at the launch of the first College Employer Links Project (CEL) in Hertford, he said further education had been forced to adapt massively.

"It must continue to adapt to the movement away from traditional industry and craft-based skills, to the problems posed by unemployment, the growth of information technology and the service sector, the need for broader preparation for work and for transferable skills."

Eight local education authorities - Birmingham, Bradford, Cleveland, Easting, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Leeds and Wiltshire - are taking part in the project, which aims to test adequacy of links between further education colleges and the world of employment, identify and disseminate good practice, and develop and implement programmes for dealing with problems.

Sir Keith said it was vitally important that the further education sector should give value for money, where employers and students were paid directly for courses through fees, indirectly as tax and ratepayers.

Biddy Passmore reports on Government plans to bring in direct elections for inner London

ILEA faces three sorts of rule in as many years

The education service in inner London will after all have to be run by an interim body of borough nominees until direct elections are introduced in 1986, it emerged this week.

The Government finally agreed - and announced - last Thursday that the replacement for the Inner London Education Authority should be a directly elected body, and not the joint board of borough nominees it had originally proposed.

But ministers have decided against inserting an amendment into the "paying" Bill which abolishes next year's elections to the Greater London Council. Instead, they will include direct elections in the main Bill abolishing the GLC and the five metropolitan counties.

The result of this decision (which was reached on technical grounds) is that direct elections cannot now be introduced in 1985, as the main Bill will still be working its contentious way through Parliament. A Conservative backbench amendment to bring the elections forward was thought unlikely as the TDS went to press.

So the interim London Education Authority will instead face three different administrations in three years, from the present mix of GLC and borough councillors to a joint board of borough nominees in 1985 and a directly-elected body the year after.

But concern over the effects of the delay was largely smothered this week by the warm welcome given to the Government's climb-down over the future of the ILEA. Ministers' change of heart was expected to defuse much of the mounting opposition to the abolition of the GLC.

Professor David Smith, Conservative leader on the authority and the prime advocate of direct elections, said he was sure the new partnership of the electorate and the ILEA "cannot but

lead to a better quality of education in inner London".

And Mrs Frances Morrell, ILEA leader, said the decision was a victory for parents, governors, teachers and non-teaching staff. But she added that the authority's budget still had to be protected and that direct elections must start in 1985.

The high-spending ILEA is certain to be nominated for rate-capping next year. Moreover, it is understood that the Government's plan to subject the new authority to DES control on spending and manpower levels for the first three years will still apply to the directly elected body.

Announcing the Government's decision in the Commons, Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, made it clear that ministers had bowed to the overwhelming opposition to its original plans revealed during consultation.

He also stressed that the Government's decision did not set a precedent. "The nature, scale and importance of the education service in inner London, taken together, justify a directly elected body in this special case," he said carefully.

Inner London boroughs would not have the right to opt out of the new body, he told MPs. But there would be a power in the main Bill to review the new arrangements.

Sir Keith failed to satisfy repeated requests for more information about what would happen to the ILEA over

the next three years. He told Mr Andrew Bennett, a Labour education spokesman, who had complained that "administrative chaos" could result, that these were "important details" which would be considered when the main Bill came before the House.

It is believed, however, that the Government may try to minimize the disruption by holding the first direct elections a few months earlier than the interim board and the new body will run in parallel for a few months.

After that, elections to the new body will probably take place every four years, although they could be at two-yearly intervals, with half the members up for re-election each time.

The method of election - another "important detail" on which Sir Keith refused to be drawn - has not been finally agreed. But the plan to have two members per inner London parliamentary constituency, elected on a first-past-the-post basis, is thought to be the front runner.

The Education Secretary told the Commons he thought direct elections would "slightly enhance the propensity to look for value for money".

On the question of the new body's power to issue its own rate bills, Sir Keith said arrangements were proposed that would provide "a clear sign to London ratepayers of the cost of education in inner London." This could mean a separate rate bill sent out at the same time as borough rate

demands. Meanwhile, education ministers' plans to increase the involvement of individual London boroughs in education still stand. They include giving the boroughs the right to appoint the majority of school governors in their area and have been widely criticized as likely to cause a running battle with the new authority.

Although it has supported the concept of direct elections, the ILEA Labour leadership and the Labour Party in London are determined that Sir Keith's announcement will not defuse the campaign against the local government legislation, David Lister writes.

A private meeting of the ILEA policy committee this week decided to launch a vigorous campaign at the start of next term challenging arguments that the authority over-spends. The authority aims to show that the non-teaching workers it employs are essential in running the service. The first stage of the campaign will concentrate on nursery education.

The question of exactly what a future Labour Government might do about the GLC and ILEA, if the Conservative legislation goes through, is still unclear. Dr John Cunningham, Labour environment spokesman, has indicated that the Party would bring back some form of elected authority.

Party activists in London are holding talks in anticipation of drafting a London Government Bill for consideration by a future Labour government.

Teacher loses appeal

A maths teacher who claimed he was forced to resign because his headmistress failed to discipline abusive and unruly pupils lost his appeal in London this week.

Mr John Pace, aged 46 from Worthing, was contesting a decision made by a Brighton Industrial Tribunal which rejected his claim that he was constructively dismissed from his Scale 1 job at Millfield comprehensive in Crawley, West Sussex.

Mr Pace, who had previously worked in a small secondary school, said he was shocked by the lack of discipline at Millfield which has 1,600 pupils.

On one occasion, he had been called a "moron" by a boy at the school and Miss Brenda Wilkins, the headmistress, had failed to take disciplinary action when he complained, he said.

Miss Elizabeth Stude, for West Sussex County Council, said that Miss Wilkins was responsible for discipline properly in the light of individual circumstances. The boy who had called Mr Pace a "moron" had been rebuffed, she said.

Mr Pace's appeal was dismissed. The tribunal said that Mr Pace had been constructively dismissed from his job at Millfield.

Time off for marking

Teachers in Essex are calling for at least 10 per cent non-contact time for primary staff to allow for preparation of work and marking.

A motion put forward to the annual conference of the National Association of Women Teachers, also demands improved career opportunities for primary staff and a maximum staffing level of 20 for each class.

A researcher attacks the Inspectorate's prejudice against mixed-age classes. Sarah Bayliss reports

The HMIs' vertical hold

Her Majesty's Inspectorate has wrongly prejudiced primary teachers against mixed age classes and as a result heads perform "amazing administrative gymnastics" to try to avoid creating them, according to an educational researcher.

Ms Jan Lee, who recently completed a study of classes in more than 900 schools in the north west, is highly critical of HMI evidence that the performance of pupils can suffer if they are taught in mixed age or "vertical" groups.

She questions the scientific basis for the HMI conclusion which was widely publicized in its primary survey in 1978. She also condemns them for failing to recognize mixed age classes as a fact of school life.

Ms Lee, who was based at the Centre for Educational Research and Development at Lancaster University during the two-year period of research, discovered that the vast majority of junior schools and junior departments had one or more mixed age classes. About half the junior schools had four out of five classes vertically grouped.

"Again and again heads told me they were trying to avoid mixed age classes at all costs because they believed what the HMI had said," Ms Lee told *The*

TES this week. "When mixed age groups were seen as unavoidable they were often set up at the last minute with ad hoc teaching arrangements and very little forward planning. Heads hoped they would be a temporary arrangement."

Ms Lee's main concern was to identify the effect on schools of switching to vertical grouping, rather than the pros and cons of the method itself. From the beginning she noted negative attitudes among many staff and they agreed they had been strongly influenced by the HMI primary survey.

But according to Ms Lee, whose project was funded by the Schools Council, the HMI made an "outstanding omission" in the assessment of pupils' performance in vertical groups by failing to take account of the location of each school. This was in spite of another HMI finding that in all kinds of schools, high and low levels of performance were more strongly linked to the setting of a school than to its size or age range.

Regardless of their organization, inner city schools had the lowest scores. But urban areas had borne the initial brunt of falling rolls and so were more likely to have mixed age classes, says Ms Lee, adding that if the correct comparisons had been made, HMI might have found that schools with poor scores for mixed age classes also had poor scores for single age classes.



To draw firm conclusions about the test scores of mixed age classes, HMI should have spelled out the criterion for allocating children to them. In her research Ms Lee found that more than 50 per cent of heads allocated children on the basis of ability - for example, putting the most able first years into a second year group.

"HMI does not even give information as to the exact year groupings involved," she says in an article outlining her study in the April issue of the quarterly magazine *School Organization*.

She said this week that schools should be encouraged by HMI and by its local inspectorates to be able to adapt and respond to local changes, including population changes. "Schools can never be sure they're going to get convenient groups of 30 children in each age group, can they?"

Other major stumbling blocks were a rigid attitude towards the curriculum for certain age groups, and a negative attitude towards children staying in the same class for two years. In some of the worst examples some children in mixed age groups faced repetition of topics and themes.

Ms Lee, now a lecturer in education at the West London Institute, is an advocate of mixed age classes, or "family groupings", where the potential of each child is developed.

Ms Lee says a questionnaire completed by more than 900 schools and case studies provided by 150 class teachers, both demonstrated that vertical grouping was not just the result of falling rolls, as HMI had implied.

Falling rolls, allied to rationalization of staffing, was certainly a major reason but equally important was the variation year to year in schools' intake.

She said this week that schools should be encouraged by HMI and by its local inspectorates to be able to adapt and respond to local changes, including population changes. "Schools can never be sure they're going to get convenient groups of 30 children in each age group, can they?"

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School Organization is published by Taylor and Francis Ltd, Basingstoke.

NEWS

Changing face of the EWOs

The popular picture of education welfare officers as ex-army or police officers is becoming less and less accurate, writes Sarah Bayliss.

A survey of the EWO service by Her Majesty's Inspectorate shows that most local authorities expect to recruit from a wide field of qualified teachers, residential care officers, probation officers, and experienced social workers, many of them with degrees.

These ex-police and servicemen whom HMI encountered had often held senior responsibilities in their previous jobs, using management or social work skills.

The survey, which was carried out in eight local authorities in both rural and city areas, reveals the enhanced social work role of EWOs which was anticipated in the 1971 Ralphs Report.

The report envisaged that EWOs would develop specialist functions but only two authorities were found to have such a policy. Both had attempted to recruit officers from the ethnic minorities and in one case one in three officers were now black.

In 1982 inspectors found 17 per cent of EWOs held the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work and one authority aimed to achieve a target of 50 per cent with the certificate. In one city however, education officers thought the CQSW was inappropriate for the education welfare service.

The impact of financial constraints on the education welfare service is also revealed. Some authorities were found to have abandoned their policy of seconding staff to social work courses and in others jobs had been cut or frozen.

HM Inspectorate says it is significant that the service is now attracting qualified teachers. The clerical and support services to EWOs are described as "meagre" and this contributes to inadequate case recording and monitoring.

The amount of money available for maintenance grants and necessities allowances varied widely. In one authority more than £50,000 was spent in a single year on clothing and shoes for 5,000 children; it had also decided not to cut this figure and to maintain school meal provision.

On the other hand, a large city authority had ended its school uniform fund and budgeted only £10,000 for its hardship fund.

The HMI report concludes that in almost every school visited, the teachers spoke highly of the EWO serving the school.

The Education Welfare Service - An HMI inquiry in eight L.E.A.s. Available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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NEWS

Lecturers put jobs on line over contracts

by David Jobbins

Most of the Gwent lecturers who face dismissal if they refuse to teach extra hours appear to have followed their union's instruction not to sign new contracts of employment.

By Tuesday, more than 80 per cent of the 400 lecturer 1 and lecturer 2 grade staff had returned their contracts unsigned to officers of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, and more are expected before they are ceremonially handed back to the authority today.

NATFHE members in Gwent will strike for a few hours to be on hand when the contracts are handed over by the president, Mr Cecil Robinson.

One college, Ebbw Vale, has already achieved a 100 per cent response rate, and Pontypool has returned 95 per cent.

This week the union asked members of other unions employed by the Labour-controlled authority not to undertake work normally done by NATFHE members who are working to rule. The Professional Association of Teachers, the non-strike union which has a handful of members in the colleges, is also working to rule.

The union's action in returning the contracts unsigned and in bulk is likely



Cecil Robinson

to add to confusion already apparent at county level. Official notices have already been posted on college noticeboards stating that some L1s and L2s had been overlooked and inviting them to apply for their new contracts which embody the extra class contact hours. And officials were unable to say how many lecturers had accepted the new terms, saying that they expected both signed and unsigned contracts to be returned en bloc by NATFHE.

Early next term NATFHE plans a series of branch meetings to be addressed by national leaders and a special regional protest meeting in Newport.

— *THES.*

Mining town heads in crisis over pay and free meals

by Richard Garner

Headteachers in the Yorkshire mining town of Doncaster have been told to keep their schools open at lunchtime during teachers' pay sanctions so that the meals service continues.

The move has angered the National Association of Head Teachers, which decided at the weekend to urge its members to do nothing to undermine the action of teachers and has declared itself to be in dispute with the Labour-controlled authority.

The order from the authority was prompted by an unprecedented increase in the number of children becoming eligible for free school meals following its decision to give them to the children of striking miners. About 4,800 applications from miners' children have been approved.

Schools have also been given the authority to take on extra school meals supervisory staff during the teachers' dispute — with the proviso that any money spent on extra wages will have to come from the education budget.

However, despite the authority's instruction to headteachers, at least one school — where members of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the union currently involved in pay sanctions, were rostered for lunch duty — did shut at lunchtime.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the NAHT, said: "That instruction should not be followed and we shall be declaring a collective dispute with Doncaster. It should be left up to the discretion of the individual head

whether a school closes or stays open. "I know members of the National Union of Mineworkers in Doncaster are anxious that meals should continue to be provided for miners' children, but I don't think our members ought to be pressurized in this way."

Mr Gordon Crompton, the authority's Deputy Director of Education, said: "Our members are very keen to keep the meals service going — the number of free school meals has temporarily hit a high peak."

Mr Crompton said that a letter had been sent out to all headteachers saying that there should be no alteration to the school meals service provided without prior consent from the chairman of governors in consultation with the chairman of the education committee and schools subcommittee.

He added that schools had been told they could take on extra supervisory staff to meet the needs of the situation — but that any money spent on additional wages would have to come from the education budget.

He said that the declaration of a collective dispute would move the authority into "uncharted waters" adding: "We have got a collective disputes procedure but it's never been invoked before."

Before this week's industrial action, 4,800 miners' children were receiving free school meals in Doncaster — at a cost of about £13,000 a week to the authority.

Doncaster is not the only authority to be providing the children of striking

miners' with free school meals. In Nottinghamshire, children are being given free school meals "on credit". Their parents will have to produce documentation later to show they were receiving below the necessary income level.

Mr Crompton said: "The free school meals scheme is not concerned with how people lost their money — but with alleviating hardship."

A spokesman for the Department of Education and Science said it would be up to the local education authorities' discretion to make the award of free school meals to the children of striking miners. "The only children entitled to it are those whose parents are on supplementary benefits or on family incomes supplement," he said.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Inner London Teachers' Association of the National Union of Teachers, the biggest branch of the union, have agreed to urge all their members to pay a £1 a week levy towards the miners — and voted to give Kent miners a £100 donation towards the cost of the strike.

In addition, a special meeting has been arranged by the Socialist Teachers' Alliance, the biggest Labour grouping within the NUT, at the union's annual conference in Blackpool next week, over the miners' dispute which will be addressed by Mr Sammy Thompson, vice-president of the Yorkshire NUM. An emergency motion urging the NUT to support the miners is to be tabled at the conference.

A barefoot walk as a revision remedy

by Nick Wood

Teenagers browned off with the hard slog of exam revision should revive their flagging energies by walking barefoot in the park, according to a new book on successful revising.

The advice comes from Mr David Acres, a lecturer at Plymouth Polytechnic. He says that there are times during revision when children are likely to wake up feeling lapsed. One way they can restore their zest for work is a "walk in bare feet on paving stones or grass, even with the dew rising".

Those who prefer a less energetic start to the day are advised to go for a paddle in cold water. They should try walking up and down in the bath in one or two inches of water.

The book, *Exams without anxiety*, bristles with tips on how to prepare for exams and how to conquer nerves.

Teachers should not be too surprised if a candidate bellows "stop" in the middle of an exam. He is merely initiating phase one of the "emergency quick relaxation technique" described by Mr Acres.

Mr Acres, who runs a study skills programme at the polytechnic, recommends a number of other breathing exercises and muscle relaxation techniques.

Exams without anxiety. Published by Dams House, Price £1.95.



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Dull subject diet needs livening up

A more imaginative approach to the curriculum and to school life as a whole would help the Westcliff Infant School in Blackpool, Lancashire, according to HMI inspectors.

The school serves a residential area and its benefits from supportive parents and a "lively and articulate" intake of five to seven-year-olds. Parents' confidence in the school is reflected in the buoyancy of pupil numbers which were expected to rise to 200 in January this year.

The inspectors say attainments are "satisfactory" but there is room for overall improvement. The picture is one of a caring, homely environment — the corridors are wallpapered — but a rather dull diet of separate, rather than integrated, subjects, and a heavy emphasis on English and maths — subjects which the head overzeals.

The teaching of reading is the school's top priority. While most pupils can read competently by the age of seven, their ability needs to be exploited in other areas of the curriculum. The school would benefit from a more interesting range of reading material, more opportunities for dramatic and imaginative play and more oral work.

In maths, the inspectors found work was constrained by the use of three separate schemes for the three separate age groups. Overall the work seen was of a slow pace. The inspectors suggested that the framework used by the reception class could be developed as a basis for the work of the whole school.

Class topics for history, geography and science were promising and



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showed how integrated study could work. For example, a topic on the coming of the railway was being enriched by visits to an exhibition, through art, story and discussion.

The inspectors suggest that a record-keeping system linked to the planning of work might introduce more consistency and might also help define how information on pupils is transmitted between classes.

More attention should be paid to the visual environment and more use could be made of the gardens and lawns surrounding the school. Markings for children's games might be an asset.

Behaviour of the children was "often exemplary". The care and control shown by the staff "might now be extended to provide more opportunities for independence, imagination, creativity and self-discipline".

Need to unite infants and juniors

An Inspectorate report highlights the need to unite the infant and junior sections of a primary school in Hereford and Worcester and for all the staff to work as a team.

Chorford First School in Bromsgrove is housed in two spacious buildings and they operate as two separate departments within the department. The eight classroom teachers tend to

work separately.

The inspectors recommend that scale posts should be created covering subject areas so that individual staff can operate as consultants. "It would be of great benefit if the staff worked together as a team, jointly planning the curriculum and discussing teaching methods and materials and work-revision of work are assisted."

Coping with Merseyside's problems

St Marie's Roman Catholic Junior school in Kirby, Merseyside is set in an area of severe social difficulties but it has reasonably high expectations of pupils' behaviour and most children live up to them.

Inspectors say that the corporate life of the school is given special emphasis. For example, there is a special room for parents and some of them hear children read.

Given a drop in the local population the school is just over one-third full with only 234 pupils. Only 8 out of 14 rooms are used as classrooms but the rest are well-used for good staff accommodation, a combined music, television and medical room, special facilities for art and maths and a library.

The building is in a good state of repair but some furniture will need replacing soon, according to the inspectors who visited the school last May. However, the book stock in the library is not good and class books are "simply of a poor standard".

In academic work basic skills are heavily emphasised and there needs to be more practical application, particularly in maths. The standards of work in general studies are too uneven and the inspectors suggest that fresh attempts should be made to provide more continuity in the school's curriculum.

Staff are hard working and there is a good range of extra-curricular activities such as chess, birdwatching, and art.

The condition and general level of resources in parts of the curriculum need improving "as finance permits", conclude the inspectors.

Head's changes make for happy school

A happy and purposeful school which has accomplished much under a new headteacher was found by HMI inspectors at Lavenham county primary school, Suffolk.

The school, which has around 100 pupils, aged five to nine, makes imaginative use of its premises, built in 1896. Outside lavatories are still in use but they are "exceptionally well maintained" and generally the quality of caretaking is very good.

A new head was appointed a year before the inspection took place and a number of changes since then are commented on. During 1982-83 the school undertook the cyclical Suffolk Self Appraisal exercise which, among other things, resulted in posts of responsibility being redefined, backed by job descriptions. The staff attend in-service courses, and there are now regular staff meetings and seminars on curriculum matters.

During the year there has been a reappraisal of record-keeping resulting in a more systematic approach. Local authority record cards are supplemented with samples of pupils' work, reading records and test scores, and pupil profiles.

From the beginning of the autumn term last year when the inspectors visited Lavenham, teachers have made terms forecasts of the work to be done by pupils.

The school's curriculum is "broad and interesting" with good links between subjects. Children have valuable first-hand experiences such as in scientific experiments.

The school is successfully trying to apply maths to topic work. For example, the oldest children were seen recording graphically the rate of cooling of various dyes made from natural materials.

Lavenham has many "growth points", conclude the inspectors, and there is a "sound basis" for the staff working together as a team in future.

NEWS

DES looks for national policy on school-leaver achievement

L.e.a.s must not be tempted to use graded tests as yardsticks, heads say

by Nick Wood

Pupils' results in graded tests and other forms of assessment outside the public examinations systems must not be used by education authorities as a yardstick of school performance, the National Association of Head Teachers has said.

Mr Crompton said: "The free school meals scheme is not concerned with how people lost their money — but with alleviating hardship."

Mr Crompton said that a letter had been sent out to all headteachers saying that there should be no alteration to the school meals service provided without prior consent from the chairman of governors in consultation with the chairman of the education committee and schools subcommittee.

He added that schools had been told they could take on extra supervisory staff to meet the needs of the situation — but that any money spent on additional wages would have to come from the education budget.

He said that the declaration of a collective dispute would move the authority into "uncharted waters" adding: "We have got a collective disputes procedure but it's never been invoked before."

Before this week's industrial action, 4,800 miners' children were receiving free school meals in Doncaster — at a cost of about £13,000 a week to the authority.

Doncaster is not the only authority to be providing the children of striking

of achievement for school-leavers. Mr Arthur De Caux, its senior assistant secretary, said they were intended as a "warning shot" for anyone who might use the results for purposes for which they were not intended.

"When test results are available widely and are a formal part of the system, the whole O level ethos will move right down through the school. It might be tempting for some to use the results in ways we would prefer them not to be used."

"We want to see them used as a fillip to the kids to get them on to the next stage in their work."

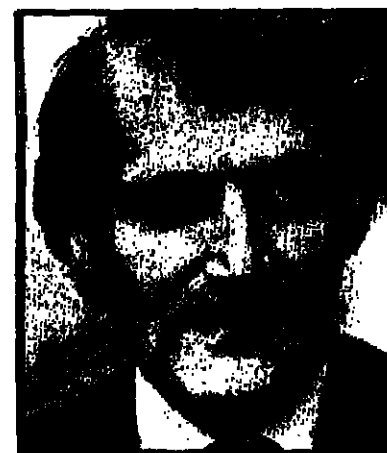
Overall, the heads welcome the draft policy statement, subject to certain reservations. They say that if graded tests are

developed they should be available for all areas of the curriculum, not just maths, English, science and foreign languages as proposed by the DES.

To minimize the dangers inherent in the subjective nature of statements about pupils, every school should ensure that its reporting system is controlled by a coordinator and approved by the head and l.e.a.

The union has told the department that records of achievement are bound to push up educational costs. Most marking and writing of reports now is done by teachers in their own time, but this would not be possible under the proposed new approach, which will require teacher and pupil to confer.

Teachers will also need extra training in assessment procedures.



Arthur De Caux

Save OU call by Labour spokesman

A call for all current and past students of the Open University to fight for the future of the university was made this week by Mr Barry Sheerman, shadow minister for education and employment, speaking in his constituency at Paddock, Huddersfield.

Mr Sheerman called on all OU students, past and present, to "recognize the part they could play in defending the university from the cutbacks the Government has imposed."

"The Government is even forcing the Open University to borrow £1m at criminally high rates of interest in order to finance its continuing education programme."

He said all OU graduates should let the Government know what they feel about the cuts, and force them to change course, as "continuing education is a vital component in the retraining of our battered workforce."

Close gap between school and jobs, say bosses

Major changes are needed to close the gap between education and employment, according to the Institute of Directors.

It said this week: "British industry is suffering because of the poor image given to vocational and technical education and, consequently, Britain is falling behind many of its European competitors."

For example, 60 per cent of Germany's workforce is vocationally qualified, compared with 30 per cent in Britain.

The Institute set out members' views on the academic, technical education and training achievements of Britain's workforce in a submission sent to Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary.

Among its conclusions are that:

- The O level examination has proved its worth and should be retained;
- The Technical and Vocational Education Initiative should be further extended as rapidly as resources permit; and
- The special education needs of gifted children should be the subject of special review.

The Institute also seeks a proper balance in pre-university education between specialized academic excellence and industry's needs.

Management disciplines should also be introduced into education and the role of polytechnics should be firmly redirected to provide excellent teaching in technical subjects.

Links between schools, polytechnics and universities should be strengthened and trainee teachers should spend some time in industry or commerce.

Overall it says, there should be a closer co-ordination of education and employment policy to bring schools and the world of work closer together.

"Our members are determined to improve the image of engineers, scientists and professional business leaders and to better match education resources to the needs of a technological society."



Sir Keith Joseph

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Labour claims schools get low priority in 10 year plan

by Biddy Passmore

"Pay as you learn" was increasing as the Government squeezed education spending, Mr. Giles Radice, Labour education spokesman, told the Commons last week. Conservative MPs did not object to parents digging into their pockets, he said, but Labour rejected the view that a child's right to a decent education should depend on where he or she lived.

Opening an Opposition debate on education on Tuesday, he emphasized that education was "not... inherently wasteful, a mortal sin", but an investment in the intellectual infrastructure of the economy.

Mr Radice said he was deeply disturbed by the negative tone of the Government's Green Paper on public spending over the next 10 years, and by what it had to say about cuts in education spending.

He claimed that Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, has admitted to teachers that education was not a top Conservative spending priority.

But he was challenged on that point by Sir Keith, who said he had simply reminded them that the Government

was elected on an undertaking to protect and increase spending on "our central sectors: defence, law and order, the health services and retirement pensions".

Moving an amendment to the Opposition motion, which attacked spending cuts, the Education Secretary gave his usual reminders that spending per pupil was at its highest level ever and the pupil-teacher ratio the best in history.

When Mr Radice intervened to say that much of the credit for those records must go to local authorities who had defied Government spending plans, Sir Keith said he could give them credit for about a third of the improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio.

The Education Secretary set out the Government's "additional and parallel aims in education" to those he set out at Sheffield in January.

They were: a technical and practical clement in the curriculum for all abilities; widening the degree to which girls took other than traditional feminine subjects; broadening A levels;



Mr Giles Radice

setting more demanding primary phase objectives; encouraging discussion in the classroom to improve articulation; injecting relevance, breadth, balance and differentiation into the classroom; and increasing economic awareness. The Opposition motion was rejected by 302 votes to 206 and the Government amendment carried by 255 votes to 20.

Ministers soften stance on flat rate travel allowance

The rough justice that will follow from the introduction of a flat-rate allowance for students' travel costs this autumn has been partly tempered by the Government.

Ministers have conceded that existing students with exceptionally high travel costs - and no chance of reducing them - should still be allowed to make reimbursement claims.

The new arrangements were announced in the Commons last week by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary. He said the present system, under which students make individual claims for reimbursement of costs of more than £50 a year, was "complicated and time-consuming to administer" and effectively represented an open-minded commitment to public expenditure.

From 1984-85, students will instead receive a flat-rate sum as part of their

grant: £160 for those living at home, £100 for the rest. The transitional concession for students with unacceptably high costs will apply where their travel expenses amount to more than £150 above those sums.

The concession has, however, been rejected as "a token gesture" by the National Union of Students, who said 125,000 students would still be up to £150 worse off.

Mr Andrew Bennett, Labour's further and higher education spokesman, said the new arrangements were "very harsh" and would create anomalies, because the old system would still apply in Scotland.

The new grants for 1984-85, taking the new travel allowance into account, are: £2,100 for students living away from home in London, £1,775 for those away from home elsewhere and £1,435 for those living at home.

Three to a seat rule stays

Transport ministers have bowed to pressure from county councils and decided not to reduce the age limit below which three children are allowed to travel on bus seats designed for two.

The Association of County Councils, backed by the Department of Education and Science, had protested that the plan to reduce the limit from 15 to 12 could have cost authorities an extra £200 because they would have had to provide more buses.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport

Minister, conceded in the Commons last week that "it would not be right in present circumstances to impose any substantial additional costs on local education authorities".

The Department of Transport had proposed the change because it said school buses were often overloaded and overcrowded, reducing vehicles' braking power and damaging roads and bridges. According to the department's arithmetic, three children aged 14 weigh on average 22 per cent more than two adults.

Extra-murals may cost more

Universities should charge more for extra-mural courses, Mr Peter Brooke, junior education minister, said last week.

Mr Brooke told the annual conference in Sheffield of the Universities Council for Adult and Continuing Education that the Government was looking for greater returns on the money it gave extra-mural departments.

The present system of funding a university extra-mural course by simply calculating the cost of the tutor must end, he said.

The size of classes and the regularity of attendance might be factors taken into account, Mr Brooke hinted. DES officials and representatives of the council had already begun exploratory talks aimed at finding an alternative formula, he added.

Few changes urged for NAB

The National Advisory Body for local authority higher education (NAB) should stay very much as it is, but with more local authority representation, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities has decided.

The association's education committee has rejected suggestions that the committee and the board of NAB should be merged and that the element of representation might be removed. It also opposed the idea of merging NAB with the Council for National Academic Awards.

NAB has its roots in an initiative by the local authorities, the association stresses. The body's long-term future is currently under review by education ministers. They are not expected to propose major changes but NAB's terms of reference will be revised to cover voluntary colleges and capital expenditure.

Exploring in Greenland

A second, tough over-wintering expedition to Greenland is being arranged by the British Schools Exploring Society, following a successful similar venture this year.

The expedition is being organized by Mr David Mordant of Wellington College, and will send two groups of boys to Greenland next winter, one from January to Easter, and one from Easter to July. They will undertake a programme of scientific fieldwork, and operate on ski, snowshoes and by dog-sledge.

Like this year's expedition, girls are

barred. Ms Penny Arden, administrative secretary of the BSES, said there had been no complaints about the discrimination. The expedition would operate from a small base hut, she said. "Conditions are such that it just wouldn't have been practical to take girls."

Members of the expedition will have to be between 17 and 20 years old and have to raise between £1,600 to £1,800 each to cover the cost of their place. Application forms are available from the Executive Director, British Schools Exploring Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7.

Guide for parents of handicapped

The Advisory Centre for Education has just published a new guide for parents of handicapped children under five.

It is written by Peter Newell and Patricia Potts, and sets out the law on special education for pre-school children under the 1981 Education Act which has now been in force for one year.

Under-fives with special needs costs £2.50 from ACE, 18 Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PB.

EASTER NOTICE BOARD

MUSEUMS

Natural History Museum

A Natural History Museum is open from April 11-19 and 24-27, excluding Saturdays. There will be many topics related to the museum's collection to be investigated, and specimens for close examination, such as bones, fossils and stuffed birds. Activity sheets for use in the galleries will be available for a small charge. Details from the museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

British Museum
Trails on Egypt, China, India and Roman Britain will be available from the front hall information desks during the Easter holidays, at 3.30pm in the Lecture Theatre, Tuesday-Friday, are on Korea, in connection with the major exhibition "Treasures from Korea". Admission to the films is free. The museum is closed on Good Friday.

Science Museum
Shocking Demonstrations - by John Stevenson: a half hour demonstration of some of the properties of electrostatics for children aged 8-12 and their families on April 18, 19, 21, 23 and 24 at 11.30am and 3pm. Tickets available on the day from the information office in the museum.

A series of NASA films about the Apollo space missions will be shown on April 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 1pm. "Light Dimensions", the exhibition of the evolution of biology, has been extended until April 29. Details for party bookings from the Science Museum, London SW7. Tel 01-581 4049.

Museum of London
Easter holiday events will be held on April 17, 19 and 24-26. Special attractions include: a half hour demonstration of some of the properties of electrostatics for children aged 8-12 and their families on April 18, 19, 21, 23 and 24 at 11.30am and 3pm. Tickets available on the day from the information office in the museum.

Museum of Mankind

"Hands off" sessions will be held in the Schools' Room, at which children will be given the opportunity to handle items from the museum's collection; these will include weapons, musical instruments and weapons. Museum staff will be available to answer questions, and paper, boards and crayons will be supplied. These sessions, which are most suitable for 8 to 13-year-olds, will be held from April 16-19 and 24-27 from 10.45am-12.45pm. Details from the museum, 6 Burlington Gardens, London W1.

Horwath Museum
Special exhibitions include "Folk Art of Montenegro"; "Reserve Paintings from Slovenia"; and "Redecoration in Inca Valley" all until May 10. A talk for children aged 8-13 on "An Introduction to Wildlife" will be given on Tuesday April 17 from 2.30-4.0pm. Tickets 50p from the Education Centre, Horwath Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ.

The Homerton Club, which offers art and craft activities related to the museum's ethnographic collection for children aged eight and over, will be open from 10.30am-1.30pm on April 11-14, 16-19, and 24-26.

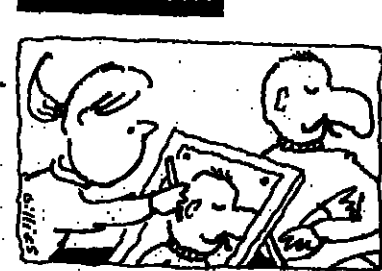


Geffrye Museum
"Sandbags, Shelters and Shortages": the theme of the museum's Easter holiday activities for children over the age of seven is life in London during the Second World War. Activities include drama workshops, cookery sessions using war-time rations, art activities and period films and newsreels. April 12-19, 21, and 24-28 from 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4pm. For details and group bookings please contact the Education Department, the Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2. Tel 01-739 8368.

Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Activities for schools related to the exhibition of traditional North Devon pottery and the paintings of Walter Langley will be held from May 8-18. Harry Juniper will be artist in residence, and school groups will be able to watch him throw and decorate pots using traditional materials and techniques. Scrapboard, wax resist and other activities will be available. Details of group bookings from Frank Gent, education officer, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3RX.

National Museum of Wales
Informal activities for children aged 7-13 from 10am to 4pm each day from April 16-27, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Good Friday. In the main building, Cathays Park, Cardiff. Question sheets, based on permanent exhibits in the museum's galleries, drawing boards, stools and crayons will be available free. Films dealing with natural sciences will be shown twice a day. Details displayed in the museum's main hall.

GALLERIES



The National Gallery
"Windows" is the theme of the Easter Holiday Quiz for children: 14-page quiz sheets for infants (under 7) juniors (7-11) and seniors (12-16) will be available at the Orange Street entrance from Wednesday, April 11 until April 29. Holiday talks for children aged 8-14 will be held at the gallery every weekday from April 11 to April 27 (excluding April 20 and 23) at 11.30am. Details from the Education Department, The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2.

Tate Gallery

"Gardens of Imagination and Delight" is the theme of a gallery trail. Children are invited to hunt for eight paintings and one sculpture which relate in a variety of ways to the theme of gardens. Illustrated details act as clues and are followed by a short series of questions aimed at encouraging a closer look at the works.

Special tours for children will start at 11.30am on April 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 from the rotunda. Each day there will be a different theme to explore.

National Portrait Gallery
"The Making of Lord Volvo": a holiday project for 11 to 20-year-olds based on Humphrey Ocean's painting, "Lord Volvo and Esaiola", on April 16, 17 and 18. There will be a lecture by Humphrey Ocean on "The Making of Lord Volvo" at 11am each morning. A practical session (admission by ticket only) from 2pm-4.30pm on "The Character of a Portrait" will involve making a portrait from a model, emphasizing outstanding characteristics. Send a stamped addressed envelope marked "Ocean", stating the date requested and age, to Secretaries' Office, National Portrait Gallery, London WC2H 0HE. Tickets and materials (black ink, coloured chalk and paper cut-out) are free. Only those who have attended the morning lecture may attend the afternoon session.

Other Events
ICA Children's Cinema
"Supermanation": An Easter holiday season of Gerry Anderson's science fiction films for cinema and television will be screened from March 31-April 29. It includes *Thunderbirds*, *Captain Scarlet*, *Fireball XL5*, *Stingray* and a special event on April 14 when Gerry Anderson will introduce technicians, models and extracts from the current *Tarzan* series. Details from the ICA, The Mall, London SW1. Tel 01-930 3647.

Covent Garden Community Children's Workshop
A team of puppeteers and musicians, including Amanda Webb, Geraldine Bone and the City Cart Company, will be working throughout the Easter holidays at a youth club in Covent Garden with children living in the area. Details from 18 Wellington Street, London WC2.

Puppet Theatre 84
An international festival of animation in theatre and film at venues throughout London from April 24-May 6. It will present puppetry in many unusual forms: giant shadow puppets, marionettes and rod puppets. More than 30 companies from all over the world will take part. Details from the Puppet Centre, Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London SW11 5TF.

Commonwealth Institute
Family entertainment: *Dreamtime Wakeup* Black Australia. Wayne Nichol, an Aboriginal, and Eric Madden, a white Australian, in a multimedia presentation using original songs, traditional and contemporary dance, stories and slides. April 12-18, Monday-Saturday 11.30am and 2.30pm; Sunday 2.30pm and 4.45pm. Admission free. Inquiries to the Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8.

Information for the Noticeboard should be sent to Mary Crickshank at The TES, Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1, to arrive at least nine days before publication.



The aero pioneers who helped get the courses off the ground last month.

Flying lessons for teachers idea takes off

Women teachers who would like to learn to pilot an aircraft are being invited to join a three-day residential course at a small Midlands airfield this Easter.

The course at Wellesbourne Mountford airfield follows the one-day introductory session the British Women Pilots' Association organized for teachers last month.

During the day the 13 participants heard how aviation projects could be integrated into the curriculum. They studied aviation books and software, and each had a brief trial flying lesson over Stratford upon Avon, the Civil

War territory of Edgehill, and a deserted medieval village site.

Mrs Ann Bond, of the BWPA, said that a number of the teachers who took part in the one-day course had enrolled for the Easter course, which is open to all women. The one-day course was the first teachers' course the BWPA had run, she said, but others were being planned.

The three-day course costs £45 for food and accommodation plus £15 for a trial flying lesson or £10 for three glider launches. More details from Mrs Ann Bond, Ivy House, Whitford, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV36 5PE.

Putting pupils on the 'right' sex track

Hilary Wilce looks at a new study on how teachers allegedly channel children's behaviour patterns according to gender.

Teacher attitudes play a key role in channelling pupils into traditional boy-girl patterns of behaviour, according to research conducted over two years in a large northern comprehensive.

Many small and often well-intentioned or even unconscious responses by teachers help to develop differing expectations between boys and girls, and to encourage pupils to behave in the "right" way for their sex. Ms Carol Buswell, a senior lecturer in sociology at Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, says in a new collection of papers on women and education.

To highlight the processes at work in schools she has outlined case studies which she claims are typical of what can happen to pupils as they go through their final years at secondary school.

Peter, she describes as a marginal achiever, although his teachers confidently expected him to pass five or more O levels. They described him as extrovert, articulate and mature, and said he had considerable support from home. Peter himself said he might have left school after the fifth form, but was encouraged to consider staying on by two teachers who were involved with the football team he played for. This he did, even though he passed only three O levels.

In the sixth form he took three A levels and two O levels, but soon found himself depressed and bored. His teachers blamed his lack of progress on

the fact he did no homework, or said - contrary to earlier reports - that he did not support from home. Eventually he left school with one A level, having failed two.

Peter, Ms Buswell maintains, was sponsored by male teachers whom he met through the sports team network, and throughout his time in the sixth form his academic abilities were never questioned by either himself or his teachers. Instead he was constantly pulled up for not doing enough work.

"Other boys in this category have similar case histories. This is not to say that they were being 'clashed up' and similar girls were not; the point is the A level girls were all doing some work and were anyway less marginal in examination terms. These boys were being given extra chances and opportunities - whether or not they decided to take them... The important difference between encouragement for (these) girls and the sponsorship of marginal boys was that the girls were encouraged after they had already proved themselves."

Judy Ms Buswell describes as a pupil

who through her time in the sixth form learned to be "a good pupil" and therefore eventually "a good woman".

Judy had left school in the fifth form but returned later to take some O levels. She described herself as "not all quiet and sweet" and had behaviour problems at school. She shouted at a senior staff member, told a teacher he was trained to break her spirit and stormed out of a lesson. There were constant scenes about her behaviour,

although her work was not discussed. Staff described her as neurotic, spoilt and highly strung, but one teacher at least managed to cajole her into quietening down.

Ms Buswell points out that Judy could accurately have been described as aggressive, rude and unpredictable. Instead, the descriptions given added up to "a thumbnail sketch of a person who could only be female according to traditional stereotypes".

"The labelling of her attributes in this way is important because it 'constructs' a person who needs nurturing. The image of an aggressive loud-mouth who does no work and misses lessons would have suggested quite different treatment."

Anne, in contrast, was a high achiever who hoped to study accounts, maths and history at A level and to become an accountant. However she was persuaded by her teacher to drop accounts in favour of English in order to try for Oxbridge. He said it would be better for her in the long run to get a good general education.

Anne agreed, knowing that the

hopes of the school were pinned on her. "Mr S says it'll be good for the school", she is quoted as saying, "and I don't want to let the school down; it's not just for me now."

Anne got a place at Oxford to study a humanities subject, yet a fellow student, Roger, who had identical aspirations to Anne's, was left alone to do the A levels he wanted and was able to go on to university to study finance and accounting.

"The school's assumption seemed to be that a 'general' education - especially at a high status university or college - is a good choice for able girls because there is no need to look further ahead than that for women, but that concrete careers are important for boys... The schools did not force these particular career choices on the pupils - however, Roger informed the teachers about what he wanted to do and Anne allowed herself to be told by them what they thought she wanted to do."

Close study of such cases, Ms Buswell suggests, indicates that while schools might attempt to offer short-term equality, they are at the same time "cooling out" aspirations in a preparation for a long-term future of inequality.

Women and Education edited by Sandra Acker, Jacquetta Megarry, Stanley Nisbet and Eric Hoyle, published by Kogan Page. £16.95.

Anne agreed, knowing that the

Dyfed changes policy on rural primaries

One-teacher schools face closure threat

by Bert Lodge

The future of six small village schools in West Wales is now in doubt following a change in policy by Dyfed education committee towards one-teacher schools.

The committee recommended last week that in principle no further one-teacher schools should be maintained in the county.

At the same time, a lifeline was left open by a successful amendment that even where the enrolment did drop to 15 pupils or below, a school would not be assessed for closure provided the committee was satisfied that educational requirements were being met. The schools were saved last year when the county council decided not to

adopt specific criteria to be used when the closure of small schools was being considered until the whole question had been looked at again.

Mr John Phillips, director of education, said afterwards that whether a one-teacher school was still able to offer a suitable range of provision would be determined by officers of his department.

An attempt by a member to reduce the number on roll from 15 to 12 before a school was considered for closure was unsuccessful. Mr Phillips explained that because of budget cuts the county had to lose 75 teachers. If the lower criterion were accepted, nine more jobs would have to be kept open at a cost of nearly £100,000.

Advice on reorganization

A DES memorandum aimed at speeding up the handling of school reorganization schemes will be sent to local education authorities and voluntary bodies later this year.

The Department sent out a draft version of the memorandum this week for comments by May 31. It includes guidance on when published proposals must contain and on what constitutes a statutory objection.

It also reminds authorities about the timing of the procedures under the 1980 Act. One problem which is causing delays at present is some education authorities' failure to send the Education Secretary a copy of their proposals as soon as they are published.

In some cases, he has not received details of a scheme until after the two months' objection period is over.

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TES 6

AMA draws up plan for new college review

A national review body for non-advanced further education is proposed in a plan drawn up by officials of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. It would be headed by an education minister and report on all aspects of provision, including the way colleges meet the needs of employment.

The plan was put to the association's education committee yesterday as a way out of the deadlock between the Government and the local authorities, who are refusing to cooperate with its plan to hand over a large part of college funding to the Manpower Services Commission.

The AMA officials suggested that the new body should consist of local authority politicians and the minister, with advisers drawn from the Department of Education and Science and local education departments.

Its remit would be to review all the work-related further education which does not already come under the National Advisory Body overhauling

advanced FE.

It would make recommendations within the scope of the powers of the Education Secretary and the I.C.A.S. Among the matters on which the officials suggest the review body should report are:

- The legal basis and organization;
- The deployment of teachers and resources;
- Student and trainee support;
- The relationship of FE to industry, commerce, services, and employment; and
- The relationship to secondary and higher education.

The review body would seek evidence from HM Inspectorate, government departments and the MSC, employers and unions, examining bodies, and professional associations. It would give particular attention to considering the responsiveness of work-related NAFE to the needs of employment, both as seen by employers and as indicated by national forecasts.

Lecturers asked to pull out of MSC schemes

A new attempt to get college staffs to turn their backs on the Manpower Services Commission and its schemes will be made at the annual conference next month of NATFHE, the lecturers' union. A resolution calls for the TUC to withdraw from the Commission and to campaign for its abolition.

Last year the union's leadership succeeded in fighting off similar calls, and demands that NATFHE members withdraw from YTS work. But since then anger has mounted in colleges over the Government's new training policies and its plan to hand over more control of college funding to the Commission.

The call for the TUC to pull out has become more credible, too, since the worsening of relationships between the Government and the unions and the threats by the TUC's own General Council a few weeks ago to sever its links with a Government bodies.

But NATFHE's leadership are likely to resist the demands more strongly than ever, since they are convinced that, whatever their feelings about the

Government's moves, cooperation with the MSC best serves the interests of both lecturers and their students.

The union's national executive is, in fact, supporting a resolution which says that the Government's plans, as set out in the recent White Paper, will jeopardize the colleges' future, and calls for a merger between the MSC and the DES.

Other motions are highly critical of the YTS, with one region calling for the union to campaign for alternatives to the scheme; but the union's education committee have decided to back a motion which, by seeking improvement in monitoring and in the status and pay of trainees and urging the greater involvement of teachers, implies approval for continued participation.

Edited by
Mark Jackson

Courses



EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

This association which was established in 1888 as an In-service Training Organisation for Teachers and registered in 1966 as an Educational Charity invites applications for membership. The Association operates three Summer Schools for teachers and holds regular meetings in the following Branches: Birmingham, London, Manchester, King's Lynn and Sunderland.

Annual Subscription £2.

Membership Package obtainable from:

The Secretary, F. Sumner
24 Grenville Road, Padstow, Cornwall.

(318)

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION Diploma in Educational Rehabilitation of Young People

Applications are invited from suitably experienced and qualified candidates for the above named in-service course commencing in October 1984 at the University of London Institute of Education. The course, which is at an advanced level, is for people of a mixed professional background but who, as part of their job, are mainly responsible for dealing with disturbed children in day schools or residential establishments, e.g. teachers, children's officers, social workers, etc. The course extends over two academic years of part-time study on a day release pattern (one day a week).

Application forms and other particulars obtainable from the Academic Registrar (TES18), University of London Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AP, to be returned not later than May 1984.

(280)

Drugs: Tories get blame

Drug abuse and glue-sniffing will be blamed squarely on Government policies towards the young at the annual conference of the Labour Party's Young Socialists at Brighton this month.

Young people are turning to glue, drugs and alcohol in increasing numbers as an escape from the realities of Mrs Thatcher's Britain, say resolutions from Scotland, where glue-sniffing has been reported to have reached epidemic proportions, Wales and the north-west.

The resolutions accuse the Government of hypocrisy in denouncing drug abuse, and say that while individual pushers must be condemned, so must the whole capitalist system.

High youth unemployment, the erosion of apprenticeship, bad housing, and non-existent leisure facilities in places like Merseyside and Glasgow, have produced the alienation which is leading sections of the young to abuse. Birkenhead Young Socialists say that Customs staff dealing with drugs control have been cut by 1,000 over the past five years, with a chronic shortage of staff at peak times at airports and ports.

The resolutions also charge that the cuts in the National Health Service cast doubt on the Tories' willingness to set up enough drug clinics.

"They call for increased resources for the NHS and local authorities to provide immediate increases in Customs staffing, and more leisure and recreational facilities at lower charges. Some of the resolutions call for Labour or local trade unions and community groups to get together to police the areas affected and to get rid of the pushers."

But all the resolutions add that although these steps could end drug abuse, among the majority of the present addicts, only a transformation of capitalism into a socialist society will get rid of the problems that lead young people to despair.

The conference will be asked also to get together with student organizations, Labour's national executive, and the TUC to campaign to persuade Labour authorities to accept a charter for further education students. It will be told that FE is the poorest sector of



education, with colleges often having overcrowded and overpriced canteens, badly maintained toilet facilities, no common rooms or student union offices, overcrowded classrooms, and no nursery facilities or provision for the disabled.

The allegations are made in a resolution from a branch in Liverpool, where college provision has been strongly criticized by, among others, HM Inspectorate.

The Liverpool Young Socialists complain that any attempt by students to organize effective opposition to these conditions "is dealt with rapidly by college principals who seek out 'trouble-makers' and issue veiled threats and warnings". Some college authorities, they allege, use their power over student union budgets to blackmail students into submission.

The charter calls for:
● Local authority funding of a full-time elected union officer in every college with more than 500 students
● Direct funding of each college union by the authority on the same scale as for polytechnics
● The right to run meetings in the daytime and, if necessary in class time, with access to college rooms;
● Independence from control by college authorities

● The right for trainees on Manpower Services Commission schemes to join the college unions with their fees paid by the Commission.
● The right for all political societies other than fascists to organize within colleges.

The conference is also urged to back a campaign to remove business representatives from governing bodies and for the governments to be elected by the staff unions, the students, and the local Labour movement.

Some of the resolutions denounce the Youth Training Scheme as a swindle and demand its replacement by public works programmes and better training. But they are outnumbered by others which call for specific improvements such as effective monitoring, better pay, and a say for trainees in the way their schemes are run.

The conference will also be asked to support votes for school leavers and other 16-year-olds, and the right to stand for Parliament at 18.

Many resolutions reflect the strong influence of Militant among the Young Socialists, but one from Corby calls for an end to "the endless parrot-like repetition of policies" and an understanding that youth on the whole prefers seeing hands in night clubs to discussing dialectical materialism in the local Labour club.

Benefit loophole opens for jobless students

Thousands of unemployed youngsters studying part-time may be able to get substantial sums in unpaid social security benefit if their schools and colleges are prepared to back them.

The youngsters have fallen foul of a Department of Health and Social Security ruling that school-leavers must wait three months after registering as unemployed before becoming eligible for the 21-hours-a-week of study which the older jobless can undertake while drawing benefit.

During the three months - which date from the start of the school year - they are only allowed to study for up to 15 hours a week, including time spent on homework. But many, reluctantly, choose to forfeit their benefit

rather than comply with this ruling.

Now a social security commissioner has allowed an appeal by a Welsh teenager against the Department's refusal of benefit - and ruled that DHSS offices should consider all the circumstances in deciding how many hours the applicant may study. Furthermore, they should ask the school or college to say whether the course is genuinely a part-time one, the commissioner said, and greater significance should be given to the hours spent in class than to homework.

Although the commissioner circulated his ruling to his colleagues throughout the country, the DHSS has decided not to publish it. Experts say,

however, that it can still be quoted as a legal precedent by other youngsters - if they can get hold of the ruling.

This week Youthaid, the youth employment pressure group, obtained a copy of the Welsh ruling and its director, Mr Paul Lewis, appealed to schools and colleges running courses for unemployed youngsters to contact him so that he can pass the document to them.

But the Government is planning to move quickly to close the loophole. New regulations have been drafted which would restrict school-leavers to 12 hours of classroom study plus five to six hours of homework from 1st August.

History 'tonic for fatalistic teenagers'

by Nick Wood

History should be included in the vocational courses planned for the new 17-plus exam because it has a unique role to play in countering the sense of "personal powerlessness" felt by many young people, it was claimed this week.

"The realization that you are an active participant in the historical process is possibly the strongest way to counter the sense of fatalism and powerlessness which affects so many young people in today's world," Mr Ben Kerwood of The John Mason School in Abingdon in Oxfordshire, writes in the latest issue of *Teaching History*.

Mr Kerwood argues that a skills-based history course can give young-

sters a "quiet pride" in themselves, their family, their locality and their country which will help them face up to the demand of adult life.

"It is a pride that shows itself in easy self-confidence, the ability to relate to others, particularly adults, and absence of the gauche, abrupt and self-consciously indifferent manner which so many employers find objectionable in school-leavers," he says.

Mr Kerwood concedes that other subjects - English literature, sociology, economics and politics - can give teenagers insights into the world around them. But none can match history's breadth of vision.

He claims also that a study of history inculcates in young people general

skills such as empathy and the ability to weigh up evidence that readily translate into everyday situations.

● The final shape of the Certificate of Practical Education or 17-plus will be under consideration. The City and Guilds of London Institute and the Business and Technician Education Council are currently drafting a new course to be released in May.

The document will cover three key areas: core studies, vocational studies and additional studies.

The first CPVE certificates will be awarded this September to students who have pursued existing vocational courses.

Reagan proposes to censor defence study

UNITED STATES

Peter David on the row brewing with universities over publishing sensitive work.

American universities are heading for a confrontation with the Reagan Administration over a Pentagon proposal to curtail the right of researchers to publish "sensitive" findings that could help the Soviet Union's military strategists.

Alarmed by what it claims is a "haemorrhage" of information about militarily useful technologies to hostile countries, the Pentagon has drafted new rules for the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of research it sponsors at universities.

The rules, contained in a Defence Department directive yet to be implemented, would require university scientists working on Pentagon-sponsored projects to submit papers to the Department before they are presented for publication in learned journals. Work regarded as "sensitive" would be blocked.

But the directive has attracted strong criticism from three of the nation's best-regarded universities. The presidents of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and California

Institute of Technology have told President Reagan's science adviser that they would stop doing sensitive research for the Defence Department

if their freedom was curtailed.

A breach between the universities and the Defence Department would hurt both sides. Under the Reagan Administration's budget proposals for 1985, the Pentagon will allocate the lion's share - some 60 per cent of the National Research and Development budget. The universities would suffer financially if they dropped their Pentagon work. At the same time, the Defence Department is reluctant to lose the services of talented university-based scientists.

An attempt last month to find a compromise in the new directive was unsuccessful. At an acrimonious meeting in Washington, Dr Edith Murkin, the Pentagon's Deputy Under Secretary for Research, said she doubted whether American universities really would turn down lucrative contracts this year. "At some point the rubber hits the road," she said. "When it comes down to it, just how much money will Stanford be willing to give up?"

There are indications that the universities mean what they say, however. A spokesman for Cornell University in New York said last week that the university had turned down a \$450,000 (£300,000) Air Force contract for research in electronics because the Defence Department had demanded an unrealistic degree of secrecy.

Paradoxically, the Cornell contract was less stringent than those envisaged under the new directive. The scientists involved would have been expected to submit any papers for prior review and comment by the Air Force, but would

have made the final decision on publication themselves.

The issue that caused a breakdown in negotiations was the role of overseas students and staff working at the Cornell campus. The Air Force wanted Cornell to let it vet any foreign nationals working on the contract - a provision the university refused to accept. But Cornell refused to accept a provision that it should make sure that no sensitive information fell into the hands of foreigners at Cornell who were not directly involved in the project.

Cornell argued that a university would not, and could not, police the activities of staff and students to ensure that "sensitive" research was not discussed in meetings and seminars. Dr Robert Barker, head of research at the university, said the secrecy entailed would have conflicted with the traditions of academic life.

Given the vast amount of money at stake, the universities are certain to seek some form of compromise with the Pentagon. One possibility, favoured by Stanford University, is that they will agree to sign certain Defence Department contracts which insist on the prior submission of papers.

Unlike the Pentagon directive, however, the Stanford proposal would enable the Pentagon to block publication only if it declared the findings "classified". To do that the Department would have to show that publication would cause direct damage to national security.

Learning made simple by sleeping

SWEDEN

Chris Mosey looks in on pupils being taught while on the verge of slumber

A Swedish secondary school is experimenting with an Eastern block learning system in which pupils lie on the classroom floor to absorb knowledge while on the brink of sleep.

The system, known as Suggestopaedia, was developed by Bulgarian psychiatrist Professor Georgi Lozanov and while it has some adherents in the West, where it has been used to teach adults languages, the Swedish experiment is believed to be the first involving schoolchildren.

Despite the "Brave New World" implications of the system, Mrs Vera Kraft, the 52-year-old Swedish teacher conducting the experiment, has become a national teacher celebrity and is attracting non-critical television and newspaper coverage.

Mrs Kraft, who teaches English at Fagrabäck Secondary School in the southern town of Växjö, delivers regular lectures on Suggestopaedia to other teachers and the experiment seems likely to spread to other schools.

The lesson I witnessed began after her class of 14-year-olds took blankets and pillows from their lockers. They placed them on the floor between their desks, laid down and closed their eyes. Mrs Kraft switched off the lights, turned on a tape recorder, then took out her own blanket and lay on the floor.

A soft recorded male voice filled the classroom. It said: "Relax. Breathe in slowly. Relax. Feel the tension leave your body. Say to yourself: I can learn all I want to learn. I enjoy learning. I



Lying down to learn: Vera Kraft's English class.

Photo by Kirill Kalanov

like to receive knowledge. To learn and to remember is easy for me."

For the next 10 minutes there was only the sound of the recorded voice and the rhythmic breathing of 18 children and one adult. Finally the voice said: "After counting to five, open your eyes."

Vera Kraft went to her desk. "Get up when you want to," she told the children. They climbed to their feet, shaking their heads, and sat at their desks.

There followed a period of more or less conventional learning, climaxing in children "acting out" an English text. "The aim is to have them actively participating in the lesson," said Mrs Kraft.

The class then lay on the floor again, eyes closed, listening to music by Brahms as Mrs Kraft read English texts. Those texts that she deems "negative" she alters. "It's very important that the lessons should have a positive content," she says. Thus a

High school pupils are optimistic, but worry about war

A new survey of American secondary school pupils' attitudes suggests that they are optimistic, get on well with their parents, read more than their counterparts of a decade ago and believe their teachers and schools are doing a good job. But they are more worried than their predecessors about the influence of drugs, and about the dangers of nuclear war.

The survey, conducted for the National Association of Secondary School Principals, indicates that pupils have considerably more faith in their schools than their parents do. While fewer than a third of adults surveyed last year by Gallup gave schools an A or B rating, three-quarters of the students were prepared to do so and only one in ten cited poor teaching as a reason for disliking their courses.

According to the survey, most pupils also support calls for a renewed emphasis on basic subjects. When asked to rank 18 subjects in order of importance, more than 95 per cent said mathematics was important. English ranked second and computer science - which did not even figure on similar surveys a decade ago - finished third, ahead of science, history and business.

Business courses, however, seem to be gaining in importance, with almost 80 per cent rating them "very important" or "somewhat important". The once popular courses on the environment and pollution do not interest today's students as much as they used to. A 1974 survey found that most children regarded classes on environmental issues as important, but today

only 14 per cent think them "very important".

The survey also suggests that the amount of time spent on homework is declining. Some 60 per cent of pupils said they spent under eight hours a week on homework, and two-thirds of high school seniors had less than an hour of homework a night.

Today's high school students are, however, industrious in other respects. More than 90 per cent believed they should take part-time jobs over weekends or holidays, and nearly half of them undertook some form of voluntary community service.

The teenagers reported spending about six hours a day on average watching television and listening to the radio. But, surprisingly, children seem to be reading more than they used to. In 1974, students reported reading less than one book a month, including books assigned as classwork. Today, the same age group reads more than two books a month. Ten years ago fewer than 1 per cent said reading was a hobby. The new survey found reading the second most frequently mentioned pastime.

Nearly half identified drugs as the single worst influence on the lives of young people, whereas alcohol, the second most common problem, was mentioned by only one out of ten.

Asked to name the most pressing global issue, almost a third chose "nuclear disaster" and a fifth chose "the threat of war". Unemployment was mentioned by only 1.5 per cent.

The lessons go into my brain anyway."

Mrs Kraft said it is not intended that the children should sleep but admitted: "I do not fully understand all of what happens myself. I just know it works."

A committed Christian, she now hopes to use Suggestopaedia to teach religion and other subjects apart from English.

No, she said, she was familiar neither with the works of Aldous Huxley nor the phrase, "I'm so glad I'm a Delus-minus." And, no, she didn't think that Suggestopaedia, with its emphasis on by-passing the selective function of the brain, might impair individualism still further in Sweden, a society that is already arguably the most conformist in Western Europe.

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Ticking over now that the clock is turned back

GRENADA

The drive towards an expanded and community-based education system that was initiated under the revolutionary government of Maurice Bishop has ground to a halt following the American invasion last October.

According to a report by British observers, schools on the island are merely "ticking over", departing foreign teachers have left shifting gaps, community involvement is slowly being replaced by the traditional academic system, and a key in-service training programme is being slowed down.

The report comes from an eight-strong British Labour Movement delegation - all, as the report points out, "people who were sympathetic to the progress of the island from the 1979 revolution" - led by Mr Jeremy Corbyn, MP, who visited the island last December.

The People's Revolutionary Government introduced pre-primary schooling, developed mass literacy campaigns and brought in free secondary schooling. But all these are in jeopardy, the report suggests.

The pre-primary programme, which was run mainly by volunteers, has now been taken under the wing of the Education Ministry.

The delegation found little evidence of direct classroom interference beyond the removal, in some schools, of a book about the Grenadian revolution. However, almost all the non-Grenadian teachers either left or were deported from the island after the American intervention.

Cuban teachers of Spanish and Soviet maths teachers in particular have left important vacancies.

The National In-Service Teacher Education Programme (NISTEP), developed to meet the needs of the island's mainly untrained teachers, is to be retained, but intakes are to be reduced and the three-year in-service training is to be replaced by a two-year course plus a year of college training.

The delegation notes that while the ruling Advisory Council has said it will recognize the new teaching qualification, doubts remain about when the new graduates will be upgraded to qualified teacher rates of pay.

The delegation also found that government-appointed heads of Roman Catholic and Methodist schools funded by the previous government had been removed from their positions since the invasion. Their future, says the report, is uncertain.

Hilary Wilce

Grenada: Report of a British Labour Movement Delegation, December 1983. Available from 4 Gray's Inn Buildings, Rosbery Avenue, London EC1R.

Pupils sleep in schools in bid to keep them open

WEST GERMANY

Paul Bendelow on closure plans to meet spending cuts

Pupils in Bremen are staging a "sleep-in" to protest against plans for far-reaching school closures designed to meet public spending cuts and falling roll numbers.

Plans to close or amalgamate 38 schools, involving the abolition of four of the city's six remaining grammar schools, have met with fierce opposition, culminating in 18 schools being occupied round the clock by pupils, supported by teachers and parents.

The largest teachers' union, the GEW, with a membership of about 5,000 in the Bremen area, has thrown its weight behind the opponents of the closure programme, which it describes as "senseless, short-sighted and educationally absurd".

At a recent meeting, the GEW demanded more time for a full discussion of the proposals, together with a thorough reassessment by the city-state's education authorities of future educational priorities.

The plan, however, is fast running out for the Social Democratic administration in Bremen, faced with the prospect of school rolls falling to half their 1980 level by the end of the decade. The smallest of West Germany's federal states is also the deepest in debt, with the education department alone having to save DM120m (£31.8m) by the end of the current legislative period in 1987.

The senator for education and science, Herr Horst-Werner Franke, is therefore determined to push his proposals through the city parliament before the summer recess in mid-July, so that the first closures can be put into effect in the 1985-86 academic year.

While insisting that his policy paper, *Bremen's schools in the transition to the 1990s*, is no more than a discussion document, Herr Franke has effectively set a mid-May deadline for the end of

end of public debate on the issues. Critics of the present administration, which gained an absolute majority in the November state elections, accuse the Social Democrats of keeping quiet about the need for school closures during the election campaign. Many are asking why, with falling rolls already in view, a massive programme of school expansion was implemented in the late seventies, which cost the city more than DM200m for new secondary schools. Others charge Herr Franke with party-political tactics in introducing unpopular measures this year, which would lose the SPD the next election, if left till later in the legislative period.

These complaints have underscored concern among teachers, parents and pupils about the fate of their own schools and about specific problems the scheme will cause.

Herr Franke, while admitting inevitable difficulties in the coming years, claims that they will be short-lived and are justified in order to maintain existing education standards in Bremen. Schools need to be big enough to support the present breadth of subject choice, he claims, and at the same time the proposals will enable him to restrict the size of classes to the current level, which is the second lowest in West Germany.

The planned measures, according to Herr Franke, should be seen as a consolidation of the school system introduced by the Social Democrats in



Pupil protesters: 18 schools have been occupied round the clock. Photograph: GSA

Bremen in the 1970s. Their stated aim during this period was gradually to replace the tripartite system of separate grammar, intermediate and secondary modern schools with school "centres", where teaching would be in stream-lined units, divided according to age groups.

In a second phase, these school centres would be converted into full "integrated" or non-streamlined comprehensive schools.

With the first phase of this scheme largely implemented, Herr Franke believes the task of the immediate future is to conserve and improve on what has already been achieved, rather than to press ahead with full comprehensiveization, which would impose too great an organizational and educational strain on pupils, parents and teachers. Seen in this light, he maintains, the plans to close a number of schools, including most of the remaining grammar schools, represent the pursuance of a course which has proved its educational worth, rather than change for political or ideological reasons.

This justification of the proposed closures on educational grounds was dismissed by the regional GEW leadership. With the first phase of this scheme largely implemented, Herr Franke believes the task of the immediate future is to conserve and improve on what has already been achieved, rather than to press ahead with full comprehensiveization, which would impose too great an organizational and educational strain on pupils, parents and teachers. Seen in this light, he maintains, the plans to close a number of schools, including most of the remaining grammar schools, represent the pursuance of a course which has proved its educational worth, rather than change for political or ideological reasons.

Teachers seek higher footing on pay ladder

FINLAND

Finland's 45,000-strong national union of teachers (OAJ) has started concerted strike action for the first time in its history.

On April 2, 4,500 comprehensive school teachers in charge of 70,000 pupils in Helsinki and three other towns came out in support of their pay claim after a government mediator's last-ditch conciliation effort failed. A similar number of teachers in nine other municipalities will join in if no agreement is reached by April 16.

Mr Valtio Ranne, OAJ chairman, predicted that the strike could last four or five weeks.

"There are some signs that the local authorities who employ us want to end the strike, which disrupts the community because so many small children, too young to fend for themselves, are away from school", Mr Ranne said. "On the other hand, there is talk of a lock-out of teachers."

The OAJ's action spearheaded stoppages and strike threats by several of the other 48 associations and unions affiliated to Akava, a central organization grouping 185,000 professional and academic staff. Akava claims that its members' standard of living has plummeted by 17 per cent since the early

1970s while that of industrial workers has risen 24 per cent.

Akava is the only one of Finland's four union federations not to sign a centralized pay formula, devised in early March, that gives rises of about 7 per cent over a two-year period.

The OAJ realizes that any concession it may obtain above this level could have a complicated knock-on effect where other Akava affiliates are concerned.

The comprehensive teachers are seeking an extra 600-800 Finnish marks

(£75-100) on a starting salary of FM4,177 a month, which rises to between FM6,000 and FM6,800 after 20 years' service with minimal promotion. About one-third of the claim is for compensation for extra duties caused by a reform of the Education Act, passed by parliament last year.

Differing tax scales and Finland's high cost of living hinder international comparisons, but it appears that Finnish teachers, lagging at home on the pay ladder, have fallen somewhat below the Western European norm.

Donald Fields

Paying the penalty for early success

CHINA

Parents whose children do well at primary school should not become complacent, for they risk turning them into "slow" pupils at middle school, warns a teacher writing in the *Peking Daily Newspaper*.

The teacher, Su Chuanru, said that of 368 students at her middle school who took grades one and two last year, 67 had to repeat this year, although most had been bright at primary school. One important reason for this decline, said Su, was "improper education at home".

Su claimed that parents who saw their children getting good marks at primary school took too much complacency in view, believing that the child needed only to revise a little before examinations to achieve good marks. But these parents did not realize that the reason for the high scores in primary school was that the work was not very difficult, requiring mainly memorization and revision.

Middle school had more subjects



Complacent parents have been blamed for bright pupils' underachievement, and needed more complicated knowledge. Weakness in one subject affected others connected with it. Parents, still believing their children capable of good results, at first ignored the problem, then were at a loss as to what to do. The "slow" students

became worried, and the parents angry, and the children became reluctant to attend school.

Parents should create an atmosphere at home suitable for their children to do their homework in - without distraction from television or chatting neighbours - and should encourage their children instead of mocking or beating them, said Su.

They should also keep an eye open for changes of habit in their offspring, such as in dress, choice of reading matter and demands for pocket money, for "middle school students have rather weak self-control".

Su cited the case of a student, a girl, whose good progress deteriorated after she went to see a film from Hong Kong. The girl copied the clothes and hairstyle of the film star and started wearing make-up. From being one of Su's best students, she became one of the worst, and failed her exams because the parents had not noticed the change in their daughter until it was too late.

Jane Marshall

Legal snags for faith switch in Church schools

Sir - You report (*TES*, March 18) that Canon Robert Waddington, the general secretary of the Church of England Board of Education and a member of the Taylor Committee on School Government, has suggested in his recent discussion document, *A Future in Partnership*, that foundation governors of Church of England maintained schools should be temporarily filled by representatives of non-Christian faiths, particularly in areas where the majority of pupils at such schools adhere to those faiths.

The proposal is justified on the grounds that Church schools were established and are maintained to serve the local community and the Church's mission is to reconcile man with man. Canon Waddington hopes that the Church will be able thereby to foster multicultural school communities in a strictly British context.

This proposal would, however, place representatives of other faiths in an impossible position. While appearing to be open handed it denies representatives of other faiths those exclusive rights which the most vociferous are concerned to establish. Furthermore, it ignores the fundamental purpose of Church schools enshrined in their trust deeds.

Church schools are established on charitable trusts to provide worship and religious instruction in, and in accordance with, the principles of the Church in a given area. It is the plain duty of foundation governors in both voluntary aided and controlled schools to act on behalf of that trust and to

ensure that the provisions of the Education Acts with respect to the school curriculum, including religious education and school worship, are made available to the children.

The appointment of voluntary Church school foundation governors by the Statutory Diocesan Education Committee is designed to safeguard this charitable obligation. A representative of another faith could hardly be placed in such a position, even temporarily. Such a move would be open to challenge in the courts, thereby giving rise to needless antagonism.

Since the Articles of Government of Church Schools already provide places for local authority appointees and already have, or will soon have (when new Articles of Government are made by the Secretary of State) places for parent governors, an opportunity exists for suitable persons of any faith or none to serve as governors of Church schools in these capacities.

The Church of England will not advance her service to the nation by abandoning the fundamental basis of her contribution to the maintained schools system. This basis is the belief and living tradition of the Christian community which is intended to be an explicit feature of the life and work of both voluntary aided and voluntary controlled Church schools.

KEITH WILKES

The Mount
St John's Hill
Elesmere
Shropshire

Unhelpful

Sir - Stephen Bubb's letter (*TES*, March 30) is singularly unhelpful to those trying to deal with the problems of inner city education, since he insists in reducing debate to the confrontation level which so bedeviles local government in boroughs like Lambeth.

He blames the media, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers and demands for a "return to Victorian values" for the difficulties raised in Nick Wood's perceptive account of life at Stockwell Park school (*TES*, March 16). Stephen Bubb may be correct in attributing blame to any blotting of the amalgamation to the Department of Education and Science; this hardly points a way to solving the problems now.

He wonders why Stockwell Park had been singled out for attention, when the article stated, clearly, that the head, "with the backing of ILEA took the courageous step of inviting the *The TES* in". He takes a swipe at Peter Herbert of the NAS/UTW for calling for a "tougher line with troublemakers", suggesting that this is part of a

campaign to return to stricter discipline, including the cane, generally.

This is certainly a red herring but can Stephen Bubb seriously believe that it is possible to have effective learning without reasonable order in the classroom? Clearly, behaviour at school does often reflect problems out of school. It is necessary to maintain order in school, however, even where it is not possible to deal with the other difficulties. Does Stephen Bubb accept this? If so, how can he justify the decision of the governors to fail to support the staff of the school when they turned down a recommendation for expulsion?

The fact is that school governing bodies, in Lambeth, are increasingly becoming under the sway of far left Labour activists, more concerned with their fanciful theories than with the interests of the children. I hope, sincerely, that in the end "all will come right" with Stockwell Park. With commitment from the staff and understanding by the rest of us, I am sure that it will.

MALCOLM NOBLE
60 Lansdowne Hill
London SE27

Unequal pictures

Sir - While we welcomed the full and sympathetic account (*TES*, March 30) of the curriculum organization and structure we have set up to try to ensure equal opportunities for all pupils until the age of 16, it is regrettable that this was not reflected by the accompanying photographs; three out of four portray boys only, while in the fourth a girl is doing dance.

The photographer took a large number of photographs in a variety of classes; in each of them boys and girls were actively involved in all the activities. It is ironic that those chosen for publication fail to do justice to the school's determination to put equal opportunities into practice.

SHEILA MADGWICK
Deputy head
Holland Park School
Camden Hill Road
London W8

Business studies

Sir - I am writing to correct the false position adopted by Sheila Madgwick in the feature article on Holland Park School's curriculum (*TES*, March 30). To my knowledge, within the Inner London Education Authority there are few (if any) examples of business studies or computer studies courses being vocationally orientated.

Instead, schools tend to offer CSE and/or O level courses which should be perceived in terms of a general education package. Typically, students within business studies learn about insurance, transport, personal budgeting and saving, credit and consumer protection, and a whole range of other topics designed to make them more aware of their rights as consumers not to fit them rigidly for a particular job.

Alternatively, students often opt for an office practice with keyboard skills, storage, retrieval and sources of information, oral and written communications - surely essential ele-



Flexible programme... Oxford Polytechnic. Below: Lord Annan... misleading question.

Meeting needs

Sir - Biddy Passmore's lively account of the Lords debate on higher education (*TES*, March 23) passes on Lord Annan's (theoretical) question: "Should anthropology be taught in [Oxford Polytechnic]?" Put this way not only the question, but also the implied answer, is crude and misleading.

Anthropology is in fact offered as a single field on the Oxford Polytechnic modular course. The modest number of students who enter to read this field each year all combine their studies with another field selected from a wide range of arts, science and social science fields. In addition the course's unit credit structure enables a significant number of students (approximately 130 this year) not reading for degrees in anthropology to take one or two units in this subject gaining valuable insights into their primary fields of study, many of which are, of course, in those areas which Lord Annan feels should be our proper preserve (examples are catering, biology, geology, languages, psychology).

This is precisely the kind of flexible, broad-ranging programme which this



polytechnic, and others in the public sector, have developed in order to meet a variety of needs: local and national, vocational and non-vocational, full-time and part-time. There are not many analogies in the university world. Establishing the proper role for public sector higher education will not be accomplished by unstable and unformed distinctions between arts and technology subjects, vocational and non-vocational courses, or the initial qualifications and final attainments of students in university and local authority institutions.

D J WATSON
Dean, modular course
Oxford Polytechnic

Governing moves

Sir - While welcoming the news (*TES*, March 23) that the Government is thinking of devolving more authority to governing bodies of schools, I believe this change will be less than effective unless two further proposals are implemented. First, teachers (especially headteachers) will have to be persuaded by argument that the enhanced role of governing bodies will further the educational experiences of school pupils. It will be counter-productive simply to force this change through without seriously attempting to show teachers why it is being urged.

Second, members of governing bodies must be prepared to gain for themselves a wide range of knowledge about schools - how schools are and can be managed, what the aims of education and curriculum structures might be, what is to be said for and against particular teaching methods, and so on.

One good way of meeting these needs would be the running of joint courses for teachers and governors under the auspices of local education authorities or education departments in centres of higher education.

GLYNN S PHILLIPS
Osney Cottage
Steep Hill
Crawley
Oxfordshire

Special response

Sir - I regret the pessimistic view which was reflected by the article, "A hard Act to follow" (*TES*, March 30).

My own local education authority of Walsall has been particularly active in its response to the implementation of the 1981 Education Act. Every mainstream school has designated a member of its staff to have overall responsibility for pupils with special educational needs (at no extra cost to the taxpayer); a programme of in-service training for these people has begun (again using existing resources); I have been allowed to devote half of my working week to running a Department of Education and Science one-term, full-time course in special educational needs at our local college of higher education.

All these initiatives are directed at those most closely involved with the education of pupils with special educational needs - the teachers.

MARY NEWTON
Remedial Teaching Service
Walsall
West Midlands

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LETTERS

The exam boards' Trojan horse

Sir - Mary Warnock (TES, March 30) embraces some ideas on examinations attributed to Tim Brighouse (TES, March 16) and appears delighted with their "revolutionary" simplicity. I beg to differ. The ideas are neither revolutionary nor simple.

In the United States, concepts of credit accumulation, graded tests, and modular curriculum structures, are a long way from new and can provide us with many useful models in thinking about the examination system. However, I fail to see the logic behind the answer to Mrs Warnock's wondering question whether we should have a system at all. The question is valid and ought to be answered. I worry about the development of an alternative system which actually enlarges the influence of the examination boards (both O level and CSE) in the curriculum of schools and ties up yet more teacher time in managing what would be an increasingly complex process.

If graded tests and credit accumulation are to be seen as genuine alternatives to present examinations and confined to, say, the final two years of secondary school then I have no major concerns. My fear is that if these potentially enlightened reforms are allowed to permeate through the secondary school system, then we could see all 11 to 16 age groups involved with externally validated tests. What will happen then to hopes of a curriculum-led examination system? Will not the present examination-led curriculum be further reinforced?

Truly radical thinking about examinations must lead us to more fundamental questions about their purpose. In a society where the correlation between examination success (at any level) and employment is no longer clear what is the justification for the massive public expenditure now

committed to the maintenance of the system? Is it too cynical to suggest that the decline of entries due to falling rolls which is now beginning to affect examination boards is leading them into more aggressive marketing strategies designed not only to win a bigger share of the contracting client group but also to extend their influence in new directions, such as graded tests and credit accumulation?

Unfortunately, the boards are also expressing interest in profiles. I cannot see that profiles are anything other than the responsibility of schools and L.E.A.s. Examination results will form part of a profile but only a part and L.E.A.s should not abdicate their responsibilities in this field to the boards.

Is it revolutionary or reactionary to remind ourselves that the CSE was born out of a desire to see teachers more involved in examining young people who were otherwise excluded

from the system of public reward? Sir Keith Joseph has focused considerable attention on the needs of the 40 per cent of secondary pupils who still leave school with no such reward. Examination boards have no experience with such pupils: teachers do.

In Stockport, the teachers have, with local authority advisers and local industry, devised a numeracy and a literacy certificate which does have local currency. These developments have been a response to local needs. They have relied on the expertise of teachers for their success, not on the examination boards, and they have been curriculum-led.

I remain suspicious of other developments which have all the characteristics of a Trojan horse.

NEIL FITTON
Director of Education
Metropolitan Borough of Stockport

Missing the GIST

Sir - We have followed with interest the recent articles about girls and science, including the misleading front page report on the "failure" of the GIST project. We are writing not in response to the letter from J D B Chaffron (TES, March 23) who argued that Girls Into Science and Technology (GIST) was "fundamentally misguided" to concentrate on teachers' relationships with their pupils rather than on revision of the curriculum in accord with girls' interests.

This letter shows a woeful ignorance of the GIST project. We have, in fact, argued consistently for curriculum development along the lines she suggests and have done some work on this ourselves. Two curriculum sourcebooks are currently in press (with the Schools Council).

However, a more serious point is the writers' conclusion that we were wrong to work on classroom interactions and that curriculum development is the answer to girls' underachievement in science.

Any suggestion that there is one solution to this problem is bound to lead to disillusion. Girls' underachievement in science and technology is a complex phenomenon with many interlocking causes. To see curriculum development as a panacea is to ignore the power of the teacher. Any syllabus can be taught in a way that defines it as a boys' subject, while an aware teacher can make the links between mechanistic science and more humanistic concerns.

The final report on the GIST project is in preparation and should be available by mid-May. Anyone who is interested in assessing both the successes and the failures of the project can obtain a copy by sending £1.00 and an A4 size to GIST, Department of Sociology, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester. A full length book about the project is also in preparation and will be available in spring 1985.

ALISON KELLY, JUDITH WHYTE, BARBARA SMAIL and JOHN CATTON
Girls into Science and Technology
Manchester Polytechnic
9A Didsbury Park
Manchester M20

Micro scope

Sir - I hope that the experience at our college will reassure Mrs Margaret Ruff (TES, March 23).

We are a sixth form college of 808, 43 per cent girl students. We offer a non-specialist optional programming/computer awareness course to all students, irrespective of background or current course load. These courses are run independently of the computer studies department, mainly by science staff.

In September 1983, we registered 112 students, 44 per cent girls on to our courses. Male-dominated information technology?

JOHN SHONE
Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College
University Road, Leicester



Bridge builders

Sir - I was intrigued to read the article by Dai Xu (Talkback, TES, March 23), a teacher at Xiangtan University, China, about the English teacher Jenny Fairman (pictured) who used to work there. Jenny and her husband Rob Wallen went to China through Voluntary Service Overseas and, having seen them at work, I can vouch for the fact that they "helped to build a

great bridge of friendship between China and England".

Currently 13 English teachers are serving in China through VSO. They work in teachers' colleges and specialist institutions helping to upgrade the English of English teachers. Some work with student teachers while others run short courses for experienced teachers.

The Chinese Ministry of Education has requested another 10 English

teachers to join those already there in August 1984. Anyone interested in volunteering to work in China, or indeed in any of the other 37 countries for which we recruit teachers, should contact the Enquiries Unit at VSO.

P W FELL
Head of Education Section
VSO
9 Belgrave Square
London SW1

Language cherries

Sir - I was delighted to read Mr Hutchinson's letter ("Language Links", March 23) in which he explained how his school offers both French and German to all pupils in years 1 and 2.

In Hillingdon, over the past five years, we have introduced the same scheme in four of our secondary schools. I am, in fact, in the process of sifting through the responses of children and parents to a questionnaire we distributed to a year group in one school, designed to elicit reactions and attitudes to the scheme.

Initial findings indicate that the children and their parents thoroughly approve of this arrangement which offers first-years a genuine bite at two language cherries from the very outset and which then provides a real choice after two years' (ie 2x6 months = 1 year) foundation studies in both languages.

The advantages are so obvious that I found it surprising the Schools Council document "The second foreign lan-

guage in secondary schools: a question of survival" did not consider this possibility at all.

Inevitably, the overall course time for the traditional FL1 (French) is somewhat reduced and this can induce nail-biting in all manner of otherwise sensible people as the spectre of O level casts its dreadful shadow.

But the undeniable advantages remain... genuine opportunity, genuine choice. A positive move towards redressing the weak position of FL2 in schools, a moving away from the unnatural, unnecessary and quite undesirable dominance of French.

I shall contact Mr Hutchinson at once, delighted to find a kindred spirit. But, are there any other pioneers out there somewhere blushing unseen? Possibly taking some stick, too, if our experience is any guide. If so, do please let us know.

NORMAN WHITE
Modern languages adviser
London Borough of Hillingdon
Civic Centre
Uxbridge
Middlesex



French: its dominance is undeniable, unnecessary and undesirable.

POINTS ...

Hurdle for MSC

Sir - Your leader on the HMI's report on Education for Employees specialises that the Manpower Services Commission may, in the context of the Training for Jobs White Paper, "be able to tackle the local authorities' failure to equip the colleges adequately, particularly in respect of new and developing technologies".

In practice the MSC will be as impotent as the L.E.A.s unless the capital expenditure regulations made under the Local Government Land and Planning Act 1980 are amended.

At the moment an L.E.A. may capitalise revenue only within the limits of the authority's capital allocation, which is predetermined by central government.

CHRISTOPHER FARMER
Principal assistant education officer
Education Department
Leopold Street
Sheffield

Not on blacklist

Sir - To suggest that David Bellamy is on a British Council "blacklist" because he was not selected from a list of possible candidates to present the council's fiftieth anniversary travel awards is nonsense (Diary, March 30). Mr Bellamy featured very prominently in the latest issue of our house magazine, *British Council News*.

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Parental help

Sir - Nick Wood's piece (TES, February 17) about our research at Sheffield University into current school practices in involving parents in the teaching of reading has led to a strange response from the Hackney Parents and Children and Teachers (PACT) Committee (Letters, March 30).

Mr Phillimore and his colleagues claim that few Sheffield schools are actively encouraging such involvement, in contrast to Hackney where very large numbers are doing so.

In fact the L.E.A. in which our research was carried out was not named in Nick Wood's account. I do not intend to identify it here although it is safe to assume that it is north of Watford.

As far as Sheffield is concerned, I know of very many schools in which innovative and important work with parents is being tried out. Indeed, considering the open-minded and progressive tradition of education in Sheffield, it would be surprising if it were otherwise.

In the Sheffield University research, reported by Pat Cuckley and myself in the current issue of *Educational Research*, one of the problems we tried to tackle was how to find out what was really happening in schools, as opposed to what was said to be happening. Therefore we went beyond the headteacher's office, to particular classroom teachers, and to individual children. In doing so, we discovered that there was a series of factors operating in schools which reduced the likelihood of school-supported home reading.

Our survey was nevertheless a fairly modest effort and could, no doubt, be improved upon. In this connection, I note that PACT has already carried out one survey of parental involvement schemes in schools, and hopes to gather further information in the future. I hope those involved in the exercise will find time to consult the original report of our research, and build on what we did.

We need to have a realistic appreciation of what schools and teachers feel about parental involvement and what it is practicable for them to do. There can be a gap between rhetoric and reality, even in Hackney.

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Keeping secrets

Sir - Like most teachers, I imagine, I try to instil in pupils the idea that if they make promises, they should keep them. I deeply resent, therefore, Christopher Price's frequent urging of young people to dishonour their own names by signing the Official Secrets Act, later revealing what they are trusted to conceal.

A R STILLER
Spring Cottage
High Park
Northiam
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Medical practice

Sir - I have read Joanna Lyall's article ("The bitter pill", TES, March 9) with interest. Inevitably, a short article of this nature makes broad generalizations so the information given is not necessarily true for each medical school.

More seriously, though, one error of fact is apparent. Edinburgh does consider reapplicants and indeed a good number of our entrants are in this category. What should have been said is that Edinburgh does not take account of examination results attained at a second sitting - except in extenuating circumstances.

DR G L ATKINS
Associate Dean (Admissions)
University of Edinburgh

Letters for publication should be kept as brief as possible and typed on one side of the paper only. The Editor reserves the right to cut or amend them.

FEATURES



EASY MONEY IN FAIRYLAND

Sara Parker reports on fears that amusement arcades turn pupils into compulsive gamblers

When Michael was 13, he started to gamble the odd 20p on the fruit machines. "I'd go into cafes with my mates to have a laugh, and get little wins - never more than £1," he remembers. "I used to think it was easy money."

By the time he was 15, Michael was spending £3 or more on the machines. Two evenings a week after school, he worked in a local fish and chip shop to get money for gambling, while his mother was always willing to give him small amounts to go on.

He had to lie to her to get money but he didn't worry and by the time he was 16, he had also learnt to steal. Apart from selling his own possessions to pay for his gambling, he stole from his family - selling off among other things his stepfather's record collection for £200.

The day before his seventeenth birthday, Michael was taken along to a meeting of Gamblers Anonymous (GA) by his mother, who in desperation had phoned the local Southampton branch. She explains: "Until he started stealing, I always used to think it was harmless - him playing the fruit machines. It seemed better than being on the streets or in the pub."

Michael now attends a GA meeting every week and lives with another GA member. He hadn't gambled for a few weeks but his success is very

education teacher in Manchester, who three years ago produced a teacher's pack for GA on gambling, says: "The tendency is to think of it as an amusement. Talk about drink or drugs and teachers get really worried, but gambling they see as being zero on the scale of social problems. Few teachers seem to realize the kinds of things it can lead kids to do."

He became interested in gambling six years ago when, shortly after qualifying, he went along to a talk given by a GA member. Then, he saw it as an area of work on social issues; now, he also sees it as a potential problem among his pupils.

He points out that all the youngsters who play the fruit machines - and it could be as many as 80 per cent of secondary school pupils - are at risk of becoming compulsive gamblers. At the end of the day, he admits, it is only in 1 or 2 per cent that it becomes a problem, but he warns that those few are hard to spot since there is no obvious stereotype in compulsive gambling. In his own career, he has come across fourth and fifth-formers who are already hardened gamblers. At his first school he remembers a pupil who regularly put £30 or £40 on the horses, sometimes taking home winnings of around £100.

"One of the teachers found out because he was a racing enthusiast himself, although not with a gambling problem. But the child didn't get into trouble while at school because the teachers used to think of it as just an amusement," he says.

At another school, he came across a similar situation with another pupil and again he found that the teachers tended not to take the boy's betting seriously. He remembers sitting in the staffroom with his colleagues, discussing the case, when one said: "If only he could remember his history like he remembers his jockeys."

But in spite of his feeling that teachers need to see gambling among their pupils as a potential problem, he recognizes that it is a mistake for them "to jump in thinking I'm going to spot a problem and tease it out".

In his own experience, those youngsters who do gamble excessively will never normally admit to it, and the only danger signs are stealing and truancy, which often tend to be dealt with as problems in themselves.

One teacher, who is himself a compulsive gambler and GA member, recognized the problem in one of his sixth form, but short of admitting to his own situation, he was unable to get the pupil to confide in him.

Roger Markman believes that the only way a teacher can handle gambling among his pupils is to bring gambling itself out into the open; teaching it, discussing it in the classroom and spelling out the effects it can have, not only on the individual but also those around him.

There is however very little textbook material. In a few books on social issues, such as one called *Mind Out* where the topics are approached in play form, gambling is handled along with drugs, drink, crime and sex. GA with its teachers pack is the only source of more detailed material.

Roger Markman has designed the pack which includes a tape and slides, questions and notes, to cater for anything from one or two lessons to a full term's work. He has for example used it along with speakers from GA and from the families' support

group. Gam-Anon, as part of a fifth form CSE course.

But not only does Roger Markman hope that by discussing gambling, youngsters will come forward with their own problems, he also aims to foster an understanding among all pupils - particularly the girls, who although less at risk as compulsive gamblers, may one day find they are married to one.

It is a difficult task as members from GA are the first to admit. Forty-five year old Derek, who started betting on card games and horses as a teenager, says: "How can youngsters relate to what they hear from me and other GA members? They don't understand a criminal record, 27 jobs and twice divorced. They don't believe it will happen to them."

He believes that although gambling may start while the youngsters are still at school - "there are kids playing cards for money at 12; for peanuts but that's how it starts" - it doesn't really become an obvious problem until they leave. Often he finds that a youngster is protected by his parents who are willing to hand out small sums of money and who refuse to see playing fruit machines as a problem.

Such attitudes, he says, make it difficult for teachers or GA to help the young gambler, while even those who are eventually forced by desperate parents to go along to a meeting, attend the first one and then rarely go again.

The London group, for example, which meets every Friday at a community centre in Victoria, has only one or two regular attendees and sometimes no youngsters turn up. But GA's strict rules of anonymity make it virtually impossible to put pressure on them to attend.

"And let's face it, most kids enjoy playing the fruit machines," Derek says. "A youngster doesn't want to stop. He enjoys going to the arcades with his mates. He feels 10-feet tall when he puts his money in and the machine pays out £2. Everyone looks round. He's the centre of attraction because those machines are designed to pay out as loudly as possible, so everyone knows you've won."

Roger Markman is equally aware of the excitement of the arcades for his pupils - not only with the fruit machines but also the video games. He says: "If you're young and impressionable, it

must be like a glittering fairyland. Every direction you look it's stimulating and attractive."

Last year, four London boroughs, including Westminster which takes in the arcades of Soho, set up the Amusement Arcades Action Group to put pressure on the Government to tighten up the 1967 Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act.

They say that at the moment there is no restriction on age or opening hours and no real control over the licensing of amusement arcades. Over the past few years, they claim that the numbers of arcades in Westminster have more than doubled while in other boroughs, which have

'... when he puts his money in and it pays out £2 he's the centre of attraction because those machines are designed to pay out as loudly as possible.'

never had arcades in the past, there is now one in almost every high street.

Concerned local authorities have voluntary codes of practice with amusement arcade owners restricting youngsters playing, but they are difficult to enforce. Indeed, even where it is illegal for youngsters to gamble such as at the race-track or in a betting shop, GA says that bookies often turn a blind eye to them under 18 placing a bet.

"Given the situation at the moment, what is amazing is not that there are children in difficulty with gambling problems but that there are not more children in difficulty," says Dr Emmanuel Moran, senior consultant psychiatrist at Chase Farm Hospital in Enfield.

Chairman of the National Council on Gambling, a watchdog organization which liaises with the gambling industry and of the Society for the Study of Gambling, he is currently doing a survey of gambling habits in schools in North London.

Involved in the treatment of adult gamblers for the past 20 years, he has over the past few become interested in youngsters who are gambling, explaining: "We have to begin treating gambling much earlier. When you're treating someone in their forties, it's like locking the stable door - because one of the things which has come out over the years is just how young they start."

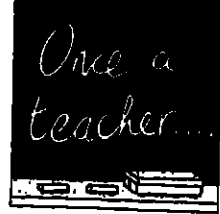
But until the money runs out, most young gamblers seem to go unnoticed. And even when the problem has been spotted, it is still a long way to go for a "cure".

Michael admits to being one of the lucky ones. He says: "I want to stop gambling because I want to stop ruining my life. I'm only 17. I want to stop now while I can. I look around the room and see fully grown men ruining their lives - breaking up marriages. I don't want to go through all that."

The teachers pack on gambling can be ordered through Gamblers Anonymous, 1723 Blantyre Street, Cheyne Walk, London SW10. Mind Out by Jane Moran is published by Edward Arnold Publishers, 41 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DQ.



Teaching should be dangerous



Susan Thomas talks to Brian Glover, the National Theatre player and voice of hundreds of adverts who used to combine professional wrestling with the teaching of English literature

You don't often get to hear Shakespeare over breakfast in Soho. It depends, of course, on who you eat with and what you talk about. I breakfasted with Brian Glover, the National Theatre player, and we talked about luck.

"Have I been lucky?" he asked himself, narrowing his fighter's eyes and thoughtfully mangling a croissant. "Yes. But then I also believe there is a tide in the affairs of men that taken on the flood leads on to fortune. And when it floods you've got to be on your surfboard and quickly. I have never," he said, prodding the air with a sturdy forefinger, "been one to say I can't manage tomorrow."

Brian Glover, actor, playwright and voice of a thousand ads, used to be the Barnsley schoolmaster who taught a five-day week and then managed a three-day weekend wrestling on the continent. He did that for seven years until, following that unforgettable performance as the games master in the film *Kes*, he landed a West End part. That was the start of a second multi-faceted career with every moment accounted for.

"How do you feel about tomorrow?" he had asked when I rang. "Right. I can manage 9.30 am. Meet you at the pâtisserie by the French Church?"

And he did. Shaven head flat-batted against the cold, bull neck scarf-wrapped, a compact mass of controlled energies and channelled aggressions - every inch a solid northern PE teacher or one of Henry's IT's leviathans.

Over coffee, croissants and the odd mince pie, we discussed the route from Longear Central to the London stage. "I never did teach games you know," he said wryly. "Everybody thinks I did because of *Kes* but actually that was Barry Hines, the author. We taught at the same school. He really was the games master - I just modelled my performance on him". Impossible to tell if he's joking.

Instead he taught English literature and loved it. "Making the subject come alive for kids, taking risks, with language and emotions, always teaching on a knife edge. I was never afraid to take chances. And I was good."

"We got a lot of pleasure out of embarrassing the local grammar school with our O-level results. We got skills, some who could hardly read."

through that English literature exam. The grammar had a lot to answer for the way they'd just abandon their bottom stream kids.

Any challenge he missed on the playing fields of Barnsley, he found in the stadia of Europe. Every Friday night mild-mannered Brian Glover went into the staffroom and Leon Arras, international wrestler from Paris, came out.

"I had it to a fine art... leave school at four, car to Leeds airport, reach London by six and be on the plane for Paris by 6.45. At 8.30 I'd be in the ring of the *Cirque d'Hiver* and off again by train to Basle or Zurich in the early hours of the morning."

"We'd wrestle there in the afternoon, train back to Paris - always got seats" he recalls with grim delight, "wrestlers are terrible people for intimidation - we'd be at the *Elysée Monmarre* early Sunday afternoon. Sunday evening I'd fly back and be in the pub by 9 o'clock."

The locals refused to take his tales seriously and the school pretended it wasn't happening. "At that time even jenns and facial hair were strictly out. But my friends kept quiet and the head turned a blind eye - in any case I was a bloody good teacher."

"Sometimes little piping lads'd appear. 'Is it true you're a wrestler, Sir?' they'd ask. And I'd roar at them, 'A what, boy?' and they'd slink away. That's how I taught", he says gleefully. "Never speak to children. Shut."

He got the name, Leon Arras, early on in his fighting career when a French wrestler failed to turn up and the promoter pushed him on with instructions to speak French. "It became my speciality, talking all the time. Then one day, years later, I was in Rouen and this little old man with cauliflower ears and a typical wrestler's bent arm comes into the changing room. 'Ou est Leon Arras?' he asks. 'Ici, I say. 'Je suis le vrai Leon Arras', he growls. Too bad, I tell him, he should have turned up on the night. Seems his wife didn't trust English women."

It was inevitable that he would leave teaching. He was earning more from wrestling and when small acting roles came his way - "as they always do for all wrestlers" - the regular hours got in the way. *Kes* was the decider and landing Captain Hardy in *Rat Patrol* and *Bequest to the Nation* was

start of the big time. It ran for six months and then with a West End production under his belt other things came along and he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company.

There are those who say that any good teacher is partly acting and every good wrestler is doing it all the time. But each is a craft to be learnt with some pain and much application. Brian Glover learnt his courtesy of the RSC.

"Because there's nothing to do off-stage at Stratford, the management was terrified we'd all become alcoholics, so they ran classes in every aspect of stage craft. Most people were bored stiff but it was marvellous for me." He had a year with the company and toured the States with Richard III.

Film parts followed including *Brannigan* and *Trial by Combat* and television, *Shakespeare or Bust*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Porridge* and he was invited to join the National.

In the odd moments wedged between rehearsals, performances, writing sessions and press previews, are the commercials. That solid, dependable North Country voice is a gift to the ad-men. "Ah in the Brewgaffer in charge of the 2,000 perfect perforations in every tea bag," he said, lapsing into broadcast Barnsley "and there's the bread that's better wi' nowt tekken owt." He is also the Lotta Bottle supervisor, a sort of cuddly, home-brewed Telly Savalas.

He began writing television plays six years ago. "I was always the one who wrote the school play. Then you're in something like *Divan of Dark Green* or *Simon Templar* and you think 'I can write better stuff than this. And of course you can't. It's all crafted."

"I kept writing them and they kept turning them down until in the end I got two accepted at the same time, one about wrestling and the other about dog-fighting... always write about what you know! After that, it never really stopped."

"Then the BBC asked me to write some plays for schools TV. Now that was interesting. I'd never been subject of rigid constraints before - characters, subject matter, moral tone. For instance I wrote a play about some apprentice footballers. These two lads go into the locker-room to see what they can steal. They open this old man's locker and inside it's full of football memorabilia. One of the lads realizes they're all his treasures and they shut the door again."

"Now I thought it was a good story and the producer thought it was a sound moral tale but the educationists said no - if the locker had been full of diamonds they'd have taken them." Another play, this time about a young Indian girl who falls for a West Indian boy, posed a dilemma for the immigrant community because it flew in the face of tradition and arranged marriages. "When you write a Play for Today there are no constraints at all."

And I had the feeling that he would like schools' television to live more dangerously - let in the real world first and discuss the morality after.

Does he ever get back into school, I asked. Never, he said, though he has a sneaking suspicion that if he did, he would find things a little changed. "I'm afraid I'd open a cupboard somewhere and find some little shrivelled-up woman still teaching Theorems!"

"We waste so much time on pointless subjects. I have never in my life had to use a simultaneous equation, have you? As for calculus and all that differentiating...!" Words failed him and he was obliged to order yet more coffee. "I'd like to see schools much more Europeanized. We should be teaching our kids to speak French and German as a first priority."

"Standards are dauntingly high too these days. What they do for A levels now would have got us a degree. I suspect that in attaining those standards too many other things are going to the wall."

Schools are now so pressured, he thinks, that that most precious commodity, the true teacher, the one who dares pick up a challenge, teach about real life, dangerously, contentiously even, always on edge of losing control and always unforgettable, is at risk of being squeezed out of the system.

"It is so easy to teach neat packages of facts - test at the end of the lesson - 10/10 all round. Everybody's happy, teacher, pupils, parents. And what have they learnt? Nothing! We have to open up the classroom, let the real world in... that doesn't come in tidy parcels. We've got to take risks."

"Nothing of any value is ever achieved without danger" he said. "It's like fighting John Wayne in a movie. You never know when he was going to hit you for real, and if he did, whether his troupe would fall off."

There being no way of following that, he muffled up against the wind and disappeared to present his latest unconventional script, *Daley Thompson's Bodyshop*, to the ladies of the women's press.

Failure is that much more galling when one has meant well. Our comprehensive was designed from its very inception to resist and counter gender imbalance. The often stated aims of the school make our attitudes clear, the organization underlines our belief in equality of opportunity. Boys are compelled to take on such subjects as fabrics and child-care, at least for a sampling period, girls are obliged to try metal-work and some aspects of engineering; no subject at all has any regulations or pressures to exclude either sex.

We have a higher proportion of female heads of department than of male in relation to overall numbers of staff, the school is managed by people very acutely conscious of the feminist cause, the chairman of governors is a woman, even the uniform is unisex - yet to a substantial degree we have failed.

Most of our friendly, well loved Devonian parents would be startled by that statement. They look on the school as a success. Their daughters (and mine) have been happy at the school and have done as well, in their eyes, as their sons. Our parents come from the complete spectrum of occupations and socio-economic groups. Those

that read the educational press will very likely disagree with my sentiments here, and this fact alone is a measure of the tide against which we try and swim; but at least we are trying.

I said earlier that one used to be able to see who the enemy were. While that was so one could measure achievements. Now it is more difficult. Most people in authority at least pay lip service to the aims of equal opportunities, most institutions and organizations protest a general support, the opposition is no longer evident, recognizable, able to be brought to battle. Now the enemy is concealed in ambivalent attitudes and often, sadly, is wearing skirts.

This was brought home to me last month when I was reviewing with short-lived pleasure the numbers of children embarking on computer studies courses. For the first time girls opting for the subject marginally outnumbered the boys, and I was a good deal closer to euphoria than a shrewd old head should find himself. When I talked to the pupils I discovered a fact that was dismally deflating. Three quarters of the girls who hoped to work eventually with computers saw themselves as manual operators, while about three quarters of the boys saw themselves as future programmers or executive users of the machines.

No one had fed this scenario to them and they had been following identical courses in mixed groups. It all stemmed, quite obviously, from self images which had been with them for a very early age.



Scratching the surface

John Sturt looks back on ten years of striving towards equal opportunities

We were reviewing our progress on equal opportunities for boys and girls recently, and there was no dodging the fact that there were more failures than successes on the record. It can be very sobering to look back on a decade in which one has striven for change, and to measure just how much has come about.

Might a woman perhaps have done better? In fact, I beat no women for the job, for that short list of 10 years ago was all male. Today there would at least be a token woman among the six; a tiny advance which perhaps mirrors our own achievements. Sexist prejudice was in the open in those days. It was common to hear the opinion expressed that women had less ambition, relied too much on intuition, made emotional rather than rational responses and were more difficult to work for. Nowadays the prejudice has gone underground and it is harder to see who the enemy are.

Failure is that much more galling when one has meant well. Our comprehensive was designed from its very inception to resist and counter gender imbalance. The often stated aims of the school make our attitudes clear, the organization underlines our belief in equality of opportunity. Boys are compelled to take on such subjects as fabrics and child-care, at least for a sampling period, girls are obliged to try metal-work and some aspects of engineering; no subject at all has any regulations or pressures to exclude either sex.

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Some of this villainy can be traced to textbooks written when microprocessors in schools were unheard of. The *Janet and John* series, particularly popular in the primary sector when these 14 year olds were tiny and starting school - and still in use in some areas - was an outrageous source of gender role reinforcement.

Even more worrying, and far more difficult to do anything about, are the attitudes that prevail in the generality of our literature, on which so much of secondary level English teaching, compulsory for all children, is perforce founded. Nearly all

'If it were only possible to arrange child care courses for one sex, it would have to be for the boys'

English literature, from Chaucer to the twentieth century, is male-dominated and reinforces the concepts of the male and female role traditions. It is interesting, and depressing, to note that female authors are every bit as bad in this respect as their male counterparts.

There are plenty of books about women, of course, and books with heroines; but few of them break the long established mould. Shaw is perhaps the exception, but is seldom set by examination boards. Jane Austen offers some comfort in *Persuasion* to those who have the subtlety to see her point. Mrs Gaskell and George Eliot occasionally raise a flicker of hope but do not sustain it. Some of Charlotte Brontë is not much more than up-market Barbara Cartland, and a book like *Jayne Eyre*, avidly consumed by every fairly literate adolescent girl in the Western world, probably does more harm to the feminist cause than most books written by men.

The areas of the curriculum that cause us special concern at the moment are not just subjects in which girls are not taking the advantage they should. The action for equal opportunities must apply to both sexes and the overall situation in which girls, and later women, are at a disadvantage stems from the typecasting of girls' subjects and boys' subjects. Hence we are very concerned that needlework, or its more modern derivative, fabrics, can attract only four boys in a group of 22 once the compulsory years are over; though cookery in particular and home economics in general have to some extent crashed this barrier. We only have 10 boys doing the O level course to something like 40 girls, but in one of the CSE sets there are actually more boys than girls this year.

Another worry is that technology does not seem to be able to attract girls once they are past the compulsory stage. The micro-electronics area of the course certainly should do so. It is clean, involves nothing heavy, favours small nimble fingers, and many aspects of it have a particular relevance to the kind of home gadgetry with which girls and their mothers are nowadays substantially surrounded. Perhaps this will improve once we succeed in building up the number of girls in the examination physics sets and when we begin to achieve for girls something comparable with what the boys manage in the matter of O level chemistry success.

I thought 10 years ago that the key to this whole area lay with mathematics, and I think I will yet be proved right. At that time we instituted an individualized maths programme which largely does away with the normally intense classroom competition for teachers' time and attention.

Recent research on this topic seems to indicate that boys compete more successfully for the teachers' time and attention than do girls, and that their greater aggression wins for them a bigger share of the spoils of learning. When all the children are working at their own pace on their own programmes, and come to the teacher at different times on a one-to-one basis, the more overt competition is filtered out.

We thought 10 years ago that this would develop into a plus factor for the girls in the matter of the number taking and succeeding in maths. Progress has been slow but there have been some significant advances. As far as O level is concerned, we have reached this stage where 50

per cent of our candidates are girls, as they should be. With A level the best we have managed is 33 per cent girls, though this does represent an increase of about 5 per cent over the last 10 years.

It is in our personal, social and moral education programme that we have perhaps tried hardest to encourage a degree of role reversal and reverse role understanding. Without such progress, public, parental and pupil prejudice will never be broken down, as it must be if we are to succeed in the equal opportunities field.

To this end we ensure that our sex education groups and our family planning discussions are taught as a matter of principle in mixed classes, as is the work on personal hygiene. For example, in a discussion group on the problems associated with menstruation, the value to the boys - the real purpose of the exercise - is greater than to the girls who tend to know it all already. The genuine enlightenment of the boys owes a lot to the fact that it is a mixed group within which the subject can be treated in a natural and matter-of-fact way.

That we compel boys to do some elements of the child-care course has been criticized in some quarters as irrelevant or even insulting. Nothing could be more stupid. The boys are fascinated by it and it is marvellous to see the rougher and tougher male element humanized, tender and caring when handling the tiny babies our helpful team of young mothers bring in to school. If you could see such normally clumsy lads, all *micho* bravado forgotten, coping with infinite care with the handling of a slippery and possibly wailing infant, you would probably agree with me that if it were only possible to arrange this exercise for one sex, it would have to be for the boys that we should provide it.

We try to break down gender role prejudices in other areas also. Physical education groups are mixed for such activities as "keep fit", "disco dancing", trampolining and gymnastics. Many games such as hockey, basketball, volleyball, badminton and tennis can accommodate both boys and girls. In community service we make a point of sending boys to help in preschool playgroups and girls have done good work in conservation schemes, digging drainage ditches and doing forestry work. Both sexes have combined to work with handicapped children and in the geriatric wards of hospitals.

It would be silly to pretend that all has been failure because one has fallen short of one's aims. There have been successes, but the general advance has, sadly, been slight. I should have been more realistic about the time scale of things, and this is what I hope the public will now understand. If in 10 years, with firm intentions and apparent power for managing change, we have achieved so little then real progress in the advancement of equal opportunities on a national scale will certainly take 50 years and perhaps a century. We must face this fact and refuse to be put off.

If we come to understand the magnitude of the task along with its importance, appreciate the time-scale and resist the pessimisms associated with short-term failure, future generations in education will eventually succeed where, with the best will in the world, we have only scratched the surface.

John Sturt is the headmaster of Kynles Hill School, Newton Abbot, Devon.

TALKBACK

Working together

DAVID CLARKE

I was interested in the article by Ann Fitzgerald on the federation of two small schools in the Cotswolds ("Two's company", March 9) as I have for three years been involved in a cooperative scheme with several neighbouring east Devon schools.

As more small schools suffer the effect of falling rolls (more than 90 in Devon have fewer than 50 children) and reduced staffing, and begin to wonder what they can do about maintaining their viability, increasingly, the idea of cooperation, or federation, is

the solution put forward by local authority advisers.

Ian Jones, subject of the "Two's company" article, confesses he is not sure he would have taken on the federation mantle if he'd known how hard it would be to get the idea established, and our experience reflects that difficulty. We are four rural schools, within 20 minutes travelling of each other. Our numbers initially ranged from 26 to 55.

My own school, Aylesbeare, and two others, Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton, started cooperating in 1981. Our first steps were based on the realization that we were similar in size and staffing; all admitted curriculum deficiencies as well as strengths; we liked the idea of working together regularly; we got on well professionally and socially. The L.E.A. supported us and we worked out a pilot programme

which involved the juniors visiting each of the other two schools for specific curriculum enrichment.

The organization was complex, particularly that of the travelling, but we persevered and it worked: staff were motivated, children found it refreshing. Since then we have been joined by East Budleigh, and our programme involves various exchanges between staff and pupils, usually on one day a week.

Ian Jones also talks of parental affirmation and community approval. This is desirable, but hard to achieve. Rural communities vehemently defend their schools and want their identities preserved. Small school heads planning cooperation should consider this in their approach to their staff, their parents, and their governors. Wary villagers may see only a confused picture, that of schools "doubling-up" for mutual support and

survival; some even see it as a prelude to closure. These ideas need to be sensitively corrected.

Some authorities seem to seize on the idea of cooperation as a panacea to depressed schools trying to cope with few staff, few children and little of anything. This is a danger, for organized sharing requires commitment and strong staffing to succeed.

Ann Fitzgerald mentioned Yorkshire and Cambridge as having considered and tried federation schemes, and there have been some successes; Norfolk, with its "clusters" of schools; Northants, with its advisory support teachers; Wales, with groups of schools working together, and so on. There are myriad methods, and it's all innovative stuff, particularly notable in view of parochial distrust, and villages where the continued existence of the local school is such an emotive

issue. Like Ian Jones I am cautiously confident. We don't just move children about; that can be counter-productive. We exchange staff as well, keeping the children in their own environment. We also try to cooperate only for good reasons; basically, to make better use of resources and skills.

As Ian Jones says, cooperation is not an instant remedy; it is hard work sometimes problematical. At best it broadens the curriculum and improves the quality of teaching - at worst it is confusing, tiring and difficult, but it can work. If you're thinking of trying it at Wilsend Primary or wherever, I say go ahead, but proceed with caution, consider your motives and carefully work out your methods.

David Clark is headteacher of Aylesbeare C.P. School, Devon.

Private lives

LIONEL KING

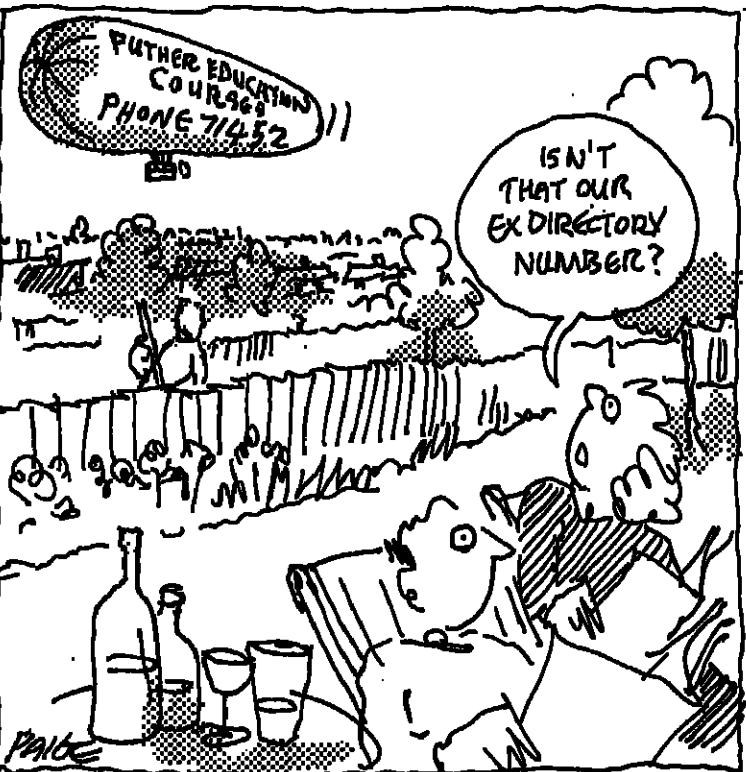
Some people have good reasons for seeking a greater degree of privacy than others. One can understand royalty, actors, pop stars, sportsmen and broadcasters taking precautions to protect themselves and their families from the assumption that they are public property. But is there a case for people engaged in education insisting on privacy to the point of anonymity?

The telephone directory lists only a handful of the staff of 300 or more of the college where I work, almost all of whom have a telephone. They have joined the latest cut - the ex-directory set.

Once I looked in at the college during the long vacation to pick up correspondence and found myself investigating an exam re-sit. One student was involved, a sad-looking Chinese, who had been hanging about for five hours while his paper was located. As I sat in the library, regretting the case with which I had been talked into this chore, I glanced at a copy of the exam paper. I was stunned to find that page 2, which should have contained section B, was page 1 and section A reproduced. The exams clerk could not trace the original paper or contact anyone in the student's department at another division two miles away. By chance the examining lecturer's name was identified.

When I rang him, I duly answered without confirming the number, another increasingly common and irritating telephone habit. I stated my business, she retorted that although her husband was home, he was "on holiday". He would not come to the telephone. I emphasized the urgency of the situation. Noises off at the other end suggested this was being relayed. No, he would not discuss college business during the vacation.

I could hardly believe this exchange. Meanwhile the student was beavering away. The moment I had been dreading came. Where was Section B from which he was asked to answer three questions? My inspired advice was that he answer the remain-



ing questions in part A. When the exam ended, the admin staff had long since departed, leaving me with the dilemma of what to do with the script. The next day I posted it to the head of department concerned, with a brief explanation.

In the first week of term, I was asked to report to the head of department's office. I sensed something was wrong. Had Huan Hung Lo complained? I later discovered his course fees were over £1,000; he had every right to complain. Perhaps renewal of his residence permit depended on his passing the exam. But was mistaken.

"My information is you attempted to make contact with one of my staff at his home during the holidays," he opened abruptly. I referred him to my note. The charge was repeated. The word "attempted" was given special emphasis. I began to wonder what the consequences might have been had I succeeded.

"How did you contrive to get his number?" he snapped. "From the directory", I replied.

This annoyed him further but I seized the initiative. "I expected acknowledgement for putting myself out. I just happened to be in college. I was on holiday too."

"I'm not concerned with that," he scoffed, "you've no business ringing a senior member of my staff at his home on his private number."

Staffroom reaction was hostile as well. There was no support for my contention that I had acted in the interests of the student. Holidays, and telephone numbers (even if listed in the directory) are, it seems, sacrosanct. The examining lecturer, predictably, soon went ex-directory.

We must have privacy. We are all entitled to a life away from work. But should there be a high wall between the two. Even the right of privacy can be abused. People are finding it a veil for hiding incompetence. It is becoming a subterfuge for escaping responsibilities and obligations.

Lionel King is a senior lecturer in a Midlands college of further education.

Micropower to the people

KEITH SHARPE

Because the school imposes an academic curriculum deriving historically from the culture of the upper classes and at present embodying largely middle-class attitudes and values, it is felt to be alien by many working-class children whose real world and real selves are located outside it. The work they do in school is done under duress; it is boring and tedious; to show interest or profess a liking for it is tantamount to treachery.

These are obviously generalizations, and very familiar ones, but they continue to be statistically significant and to have profound consequences. The sad waste of talent caused by this cultural gap has long been the subject of lamentations and all the multifarious educational innovations aimed at bridging it from 1944 onwards have foundered on this obdurate social rock.

Recently, however, and quite surprisingly, a real change of heart has begun in many schools among many children. A "de-alienation" of the alienated brought about by the introduction of microcomputers. For unlike books and writing, the micro is not a feature of middle-class life divorced from the main preoccupations and concerns of the working-class child.

Its ancestry is firmly rooted in mass culture. It has an unimpeachable populist pedigree. It is a machine, a practical object to be handled and worked, not just conceived of in the abstract. It looks like that tabernacle of popular culture, the television, and you can feed programmes into it just as you put tapes into a video.

One near relation in the micro's family tree is the electronic fruit machine and another is the space invaders game. For large numbers of children it has come into the classroom like the proverbial fairy godmother whisking them away, Cinderella-like, from subcultural repression and transporting them to a home from home where, now on their own ground so to speak, there are opportunities to show what they can do and to shine.

Unlike Cinderella, though, for these children there need be no midnight deadline. The microcomputer in education is here to stay because the computer in society is here to stay, and we have yet to see the long-term consequences of it for our expectations

of what children of all ages and social backgrounds are capable of.

Already teachers are being surprised (and not a little nonplussed) by what some pupils are achieving, for while the micro is perceived by children as a fun thing, as something they would freely choose to occupy themselves with outside school, it nevertheless demands from them and develops further in them those very academic virtues from which the traditional school curriculum can so disastrously alienate them, notably numeracy, literacy, logical reasoning and the scientific method. Some children are also acquiring an artistic sensitivity they might not otherwise have had through their concern for the screen layout of the games programmes they write.

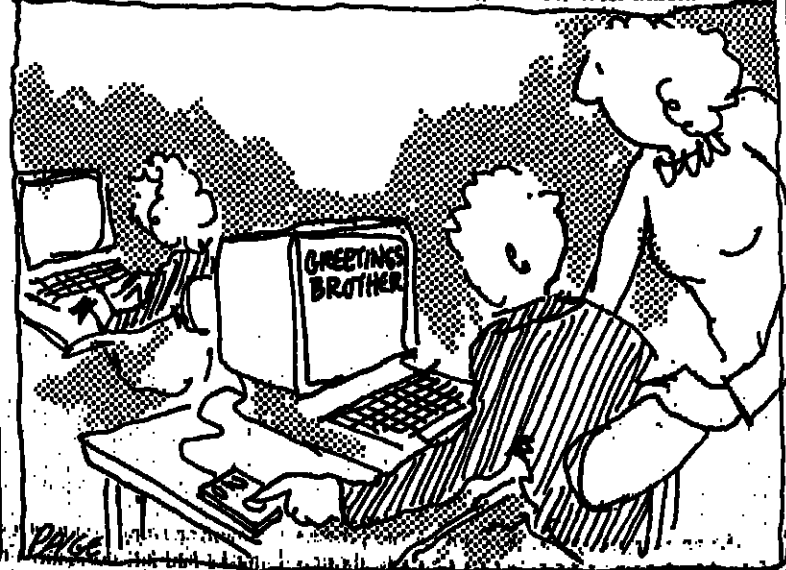
This revolutionary potential of the introduction of microcomputers into schools has hardly been considered. This is no ordinary educational hand-wagon rolling into the limelight only to trail off again in the wake of programmed learning, I.T.A., the integrated day and the rest. It is part of an irresistible, society-wide metamorphosis as portentous as the invention of printing. Micros are transforming not only the nature of education but also the distribution of educational opportunity.

Working-class children, who previously threw the baby out with the bathwater and rejected academic virtues because the curriculum and lifestyle in which they came wrapped up did them "symbolic violence", are increasingly coming to cherish the baby. They want to know about syntax, punctuation, functions, integers, deductive logic, modular arithmetic, coordinates, etc., because they want to be able to work the micro. They are prepared to spend their own time becoming expert in these subjects.

Conversely, some middle-class children who have always managed to identify themselves to teachers and examiners as educational attainments by virtue of their elaborate, sophisticated and "correct" use of language are being reevaluated as something less than profound thinkers by the hard logic of the micro which cannot be hoodwinked because it responds only to intellectual and not to cultural capital.

There is a certain historical irony in working-class alienation being dispelled by a machine. However, today's descendants of nineteenth century wage-slaves are no "mere appendages" of the machine; quite the reverse. In a very real sense the micro is an appendage of the child-user's brain creating for him not economic but educational wealth.

Keith Sharpe is deputy head of Upper Beeding School, West Sussex.

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With hindsight

Hugh Hebert on truth and legend in wartime Britain

The World We Left Behind: A chronicle of the year 1939. By Robert Kee. Weidenfeld & Nicolson £11.95. 0 297 75287 8. Speak For Yourself: A Mass-Observation Anthology 1937-49. Edited by Angus Calder and Dorothy Sheridan. Jonathan Cape £12.50. 0 224 021028.

Early in 1939, after the Metropolitan Police had been trying out different kinds of air raid siren, one contributor to the letter columns of *The Times* wrote querulously to complain that the warbling sound that had been chosen was too depressing and miserable. Something more inspiring was needed, perhaps one of those splendid old bugle calls, like "The Charge", or "Prepare to receive cavalry". In the state of Britain's readiness and will at the time, about the only welcome it could have offered cavalry was stirrup cup. For most of the year, the king of ambiguity and ambivalence ruled.

During the Commons debate on armaments in February, Neville Chamberlain commented that if it was true that "others have no more intention of aggression than we have, then the conclusion we must come to is that we are now piling up these ruinous armaments under a misunderstanding. I am very much inclined to believe that there is a great deal of truth in that statement".

That day the King launched the battleship named after his father George V, and the Admiralty ordered two more vessels of the same type. *The Manchester Guardian* scratched its head and muttered: "It has always been a mystery how Mr Chamberlain can on the one hand order huge armaments... and on the other apparently erase from his mind at will the events which explain his action."

Looking back now, of course, it is less of a mystery, but in his chronicle of 1939, Robert Kee has tried hard to exclude hindsight, to show us the year as it unfolded before the British people at the time. And most of them had begun the year with a dose of the cheapest sedative in the locker, hope.

An idealist in the theatre

by Clive Swift

Being an Actor. By Simon Callow. Methuen £7.95. 413 52440 X.

Simon Callow is a brave actor, bold, sometimes vulgar, and this, for a 35-year-old who has been only 10 years in the trenches, as it were, is a brave book. Part one recounts his acting career, part two - during which I had a sense of *déjà vu* - reports his feelings as he plies his craft.

You won't know him from television or the cinema for the stage has been his stamping ground. Rapidly he came to prominence as a striking performer, particularly with his Arturo Ui of Brecht at the Half-Moon in 1978. Since then he has been highly praised as Mozart in *Amadeus*, Beethoven in *The Beethoven Variations*, and, last year, as Vanbrugh's Lord Foppington. But why has he become an actor? What does he have to say?

The answer is a great deal; about the process and execution of acting, but particularly about...



Polish cavalry charge panzers with lances, September 1939. From "The World We Left Behind".

It did not last long, of course - March was the cruellest month, with Hitler occupying Czechoslovakia before he turned towards Danzig, and Franco finally victorious in Spain. But perhaps hope did last a little longer than Kee implies. War went on in China, but that was even further off than Prague. Rumours came closer at hand: Sir John Anderson's shelters had been ordered, or you could have one made to measure by Glazier and Sons of Saville Row, whose expert had been to Barcelona to see what Mussolini's bombers could do. Later there were to be individual shelters for the guards round Buckingham Palace, which was much like issuing them with suits of armour from the Tower. Maybe the expert who took that decision had not been to Barcelona.

Kee throws in these wry details, along with accounts of the murder trials of the day, and such guides to public opinion as polls on appeasement. Yet the suspicion lingers that he has not taken enough account of the selective blindness that afflicts us all in reading newspapers - which are virtually his only source.

Few could have remained wholly ignorant of what was happening to the Jews in Europe, or of the hugely popular Royal Tour of Canada and the US, where one Washington observer commented of Queen Elizabeth "Give her a crowd and she mows them down."

But were those same readers keenly aware of, say, the violence in Palestine itself, where the Arabs were in revolt against Jewish immigration.

and the Jews against a British policy that looked as though it might be turning in the Arabs' favour?

The answer is probably Yes if they were readers, like Kee, of *The Times*, *Manchester Guardian*, *New York Times*, *Observer*, with the occasional dip into the *Daily Telegraph* or the *Express*. But most newspaper readers then as now were between quite different sheets. In April 1940, one of Mass-Observation's observers in the RAF sent in a report under the jargon-ridden title "Opinion-forming material impacting upon conscripts" that suggested that over 60 per cent of the newspapers bought by the men in his camp were *Daily Mirrors*. The *Daily Herald* came next, about 15 per cent, the *Newspaper Chronicle* about 7 per cent, and maybe 3 per cent for the *Telegraph*. "I have not seen a *Times* or a *Daily Sketch* in the RAF since I was called up."

"The pseudo-scientific pretensions of some of M-O's 1,000 or so volunteer observers were sometimes rather absurd - one in Calder and Sheridan's gleanings from the M-O archives used the biological symbols every time instead of spelling out "man" or "woman".

But in the more general sense, the aims of M-O when it was founded by Charles Madge and Tom Harrison were genuinely scientific, to amass facts on a vast scale about what the society of their time was really like in every possible aspect, and to lay down specific lines of inquiry. There were major investigations on topics as vague as Aims in Life,

as he sees it - the complete dominance of both playwright and actor by the contemporary director. His book ends with a Manifesto urging the restoration "of the writer - whether dead or alive - and the actor to each other, without the self-elected intervention of the director, claiming a unique position interpreting the one to the other". Fine if not original words (see, for instance, John Russell Brown's book *Free Shakespeare*), such occasions have arisen. Perhaps he too will assemble a democratic Company and put into practice his preaching?

He was trained at the Drama Centre, London, and clearly the teaching of Yip Hing (the "searching"), Christopher Fettes ("visionary") and John Blatchley, ("practical") has always motivated his work. But it was the "laconic" Doreen Cannon who managed to break through his social inhibitions one memorable day, through an improvised infidelity exercise. Callow became violent and tapped animal instincts that work with masks had left dormant. From that moment, it seems, he has rarely looked back and certainly his book burns with a restless energy.

Christopher Fettes demands style from his students and drives them to discover the particular style of every play and place it precisely in its historical context. This is what Callow wants from theatre, rather than a director's or a company's style imposed upon a text. I doubt if, in the rough and tumble of our business, such devout aims are always possible. Still, as with his wish for a time-lapse between first reading and first rehearsal, Callow echoes the great Stanislavsky in his vision of theatrical perfection. Occasionally, in my opinion, marvellous productions are achieved in imperfect circumstances and they do follow the spirit if not the precise letter of the playwright. However, there is no harm at all in having more idealists in our theatre, eroded as it is by ubiquitous television and by commerce.

For readers uninterested in theatrical power struggles there are ample compensations: Callow writes bubblingly and graphically. The aged Michael MacLennan is wonderfully evoked backstage during *The Importance of Being Oscar*, and many directors - the arrogant, the pernickety, the incompetent and the bully - are all there, names and all, quipped naked in their characteristics. There too are the exhausting demands made upon a transformer like Callow: the need to "become" (as he saw it) Joe Berke, a real psychoanalyst, when *Mary Barnes* played the Royal Court; the need to hasten and lighten his metabolism for Sherriff's Mozart and the need (the fact) of weighing in at 15 stone for Christopher Hampton's Verline in *Total Eclipse*. Understandably the author, like so many of our tribe, bemoans the injustice in a system which balances so much effort, so much thought, in a pair of scales with a newspaper critic's immediate jottings. Nobody values theatre so much as actors - it is their earth.

and Happiness, and Youth, and as limited as Bird-nesting. There were also the huge volumes of diary jottings - or sometimes pieces of finished, polished prose that made it clear their authors had joined M-O as a form of self-expression, not as a quasi-scientific endeavour.

Women were often much more skilled at conveying atmosphere, the mood of social interaction. But the most extraordinary exercise of all can surely only have been dreamt up by a man or men: an attempt by several groups of observers - if they were not M-O, you would call them voyers - to quantify exactly how much sexual activity of what kinds were in progress over the miles of sands and promenades at Blackpool, a favourite site for Mass-Observation. One group, exhausted by crawling over the sands and dunes, groping to find hidden lovers, stopped at 1am at an all night coffee stall, whose owner began to inveigh against the thousands of disgusting young people who even at that moment, he said, were misbehaving themselves on Blackpool's golden beaches.

From their own weary night's search, the group knew there were just three couples enjoying themselves on the beach. And this, noted the report was "typical of the difference between truth and legend" in Blackpool. It was also the kind of difference - about truth and legend in work, the war, everything you care to name - that M-O in its Orwellian search for the grit of things was very good at finding.

The second section of the book is a confessedly subjective account from dole to first night and beyond, charting psychological ups and downs during a nine-month West End run. Some of this is old ground, although it becomes clear just how committed an actor Simon Callow is and how little he seems to take to television performance. On film, of course, directors are king, for it is only they who can show what they choose to show.

Character is the magic solution he immerses himself in: "You may know more about the character than the writer does" he says, and this again, via Stanislavsky, is an inheritance from The Drama Centre. At the other end of the spectrum comes the text, and Callow recognizes a character is "what he says and how he says it". But Stanislavsky cannot be applied to Shakespeare; "Metaphor is the problem. It cannot be coerced into the activity-towards-an-action straitjacket". It is touching to discover that while in the process of reading all Shakespeare's Sonnets to a large auditorium, Peter Hall, by one word of advice ("the sense is often contained in the second half of the line") illuminates the entire enterprise for him. Directors have their uses after all!

This is a book, then, for people interested in acting. Like his hero, Laurence Olivier, Callow revels in being able to act. But one thing disappoints me: far too little mention is made of group acting, of an actor's need to give and to take from those on stage with him. None of us are one-man-bands, or if we are, the theatre, the very essence of conglomerate talents, may not quite accommodate us.

Clive Swift is the author of *The Job of Acting* to be reissued on April 12 by Harrap and *The Performing World of the Actor* (Hamish Hamilton). He played the Bishop of Barchester in the BBC's recent Trollope adaptation, and his next film role is in David Lean's forthcoming adaptation of *A Passage to India*.

Inspired skills

LYNN SMITH

Over the past few weeks there have been several articles attacking the "behavioural" or "clichéd" approach to work in the humanities/literature/language area of the curriculum. Some of these, though undoubtedly clever, have been decidedly inordinate in what they consider their iconoclasm: they would throw the baby out with the bathwater. I'm making a plea for a more eclectic attitude.

No one would dispute with Gersaint Lloyd-Evans (Talkback, 7ES, February 17) that intellectual enthusiasm for one's subject that galvanizes the whole class is the ideal for generating the spirit of intellectual inquiry that he and his advocate, Frank Palmer (Talkback, 7ES, March 9) extol us to "rediscover". But I would be foolish enough to suppose that most teachers would do this. Enter the

profession aspiring to fulfil this role. It is not old-fashioned, and never will be, to "pledge allegiance to education as an end in itself", as Frank Palmer so sourly observes. It's all a question of means and ends.

The whole point about the "behavioural" approach is that you do what you find works: far from being doctrinaire, it's empirical. Of course, like any other method, it is travestied in unsympathetic or insensitive hands and becomes a blunt or even counter-productive instrument. But surely any method is only as good as the person who uses it? Messrs Palmer and Lloyd-Evans - I'm sorry if that personal experience has confirmed their natural prejudices, but it doesn't have to be as they suggest.

I have moved from the public examination setting of grammar school classrooms into a language unit for children with special needs via a speech pathology and therapy degree. Our children do not intuit from "enriching" experiences as in the Palmer/Lloyd-Evans model; they need guiding in very small steps. A training in task analysis is invaluable. Now, while this is certainly, a highly specialized set-

ting, I firmly believe that a similar approach has a much wider potential in mainstream schools, and certainly for children there who also fail to intuit readily, no matter how enthusiastically rich experiences are presented to them.

Anyway, as in the American high school system, there is no need for every course to be so modelled: letter report, application, advertisement, reference, brochure-writing can all be handled this way and no damage done. Similarly, interview techniques and role-play can be practised. Such activities, so learnt, can be channelled back into the literature side of study and the latter is not diminished by it, if it is imaginatively handled. In the last few years I have found many inspiring articles from *The TES* along these lines, based on what I'd judge as impeccable classroom practice.

Who are these unfortunate colleagues of Messrs Lloyd-Evans and Palmer whose "greasy Masters-and-Johnson" techniques have so alienated these worthies? Can it be that the boot is on the other foot? That the gentlemen are too inflexible, or consider themselves too elevated to learn from what others have to offer?

BOOKS

Intentions into action

Curriculum Practice: Some Sociological Studies. By M. Hammersley and A. Hargreaves. The Falmer Press £13.95, 0 85273 50 8, £7.50, 39 4. Managing Educational Innovations. By A. Nicholls. Allen and Unwin £9.00, 0 04 370145 0, £3.95, 370146 9. School Subjects and Curriculum Change: Case Studies in Curriculum History. By I. F. Goodson. Croom Helm £6.95, 0 7099 1158 0.

The school curriculum and the debate about its nature and content have produced a rash of books addressing different aspects of the issues raised. Hammersley and Hargreaves have put together a useful set of case studies in their book *Curriculum Practice* which cover a wide range of topics such as subjects on the timetable, gender and curriculum choice, and examinations and assessment.

The six articles in the first section are concerned with English, geography and art. In view of the current debate about vocational and practical education, there will be particular interest in

the first piece by Douglas and Dorothy Hanes on students' writing in FE classes. The authors observed English, communications and business sessions, and their report gives the flavour of what typifies these subjects in FE. Analysis of a class where students had to write a letter apologizing for not being able to attend for interview shows a largely didactic, conforming style of teaching and learning. The writers bring out the lack of conflict when students' needs to pass exams coincide with tutors' attempts to relate activities to the practical world of business, as well as the difficulties of teachers who wish to teach in accordance with the more liberal tradition of English teaching in schools and universities.

Caroline St John-Brooks, by contrast, describes what seems to be a slightly weird English department that was "engaged in a long war of attrition with the headmaster", met in a separate staffroom from the other teachers, wore jeans, long scarves and Dr Marten boots, and taught like working-class Leavisites. There are detailed descriptions of their lessons which reveal how they attempted to translate

their intentions into action, though the author claims that some middle-class children were baffled and bored.

Among other interesting chapters are a perceptive piece by David Hargreaves on why art lessons concentrate on practical activity and the production of something, to the neglect of art appreciation; two chapters on gender and the curriculum which show how boys and girls are funnelled into certain subjects at the options stage and how girls find the physical sciences unfeminine, and some final articles which analyse central control of education, including a comparison of England and France by Patricia Broadfoot.

With an aging teaching force which, by the end of the decade, will see three out of every five teachers aged 40-plus, there is a real danger of stagnation, as seasoned professionals defend whatever they have spent their early career fighting for. Yet the outside world continues to change rapidly. Audrey Nicholls has produced her book *Managing Educational Innovations* at just the right moment. Inside 90 pages of well-written jargon-free prose she has managed to give a comprehensive and thoughtful analysis of the anatomy of

novelty and the mechanics and difficulties of introducing it. With improved communication the traditional 15-year period of innovation becoming standard practice has been reduced, as teachers may see the practice of others in a television programme one evening and attempt to modify their own teaching the very next day.

Nicholls gives an account of the issues and problems involved in making changes in schools, shows how to choose a model of dissemination and examines the crucial role of the head. Her final chapter contains a useful checklist which can be applied when innovations are evaluated.

Ivor Goodson's book, *School Subjects and Curriculum Change*, will be of particular interest to teachers of geography, biology and rural studies, but it raises broader issues about the difficulties of introducing new subjects which might appear to challenge the position of established disciplines. The section on the evolution of rural studies is a most interesting historical case study of the fight for status and resources that accompanies a new departure in the curriculum.

E C Wragg

Fraud squad

Betrayers of the Truth: Fraud and Deceit in the History of Science. By William Broad and Nicholas Wade. Century Publishing £8.95, 0 7126 0243 7.

When writers and artists lie and cheat, it has little if any knock-on effect on their work - and such behaviour is, after all, what many people expect of them. Wagner was a so-and-so, but Parsifal can still become a saint. However, when scientists stoop to cooking the laboratory books, start bending the facts to fit a debt and fiercely-held hypothesis, they demolish their very raison d'être and commit an intellectual crime from which no reputation, however hitherto illustrious, can hope to recover.

Take the case of Cyril Burt (the subject of a notable recent BBC TV documentary, with a brilliant impersonation by John Shrapnell). When, appallingly long ago, I was acquiring a DipEd, the name of Burt wore a halo every time it came through our lecturers' lips. His work on the heritability of intelligence, built on the IQ testing of a prodigious number of pairs of separated monozygotic (for practical purposes, identical) twins, was the classic of modern educational psychology. When Burt died in 1971, laden with a knighthood and many other honours, his findings were still utterly unassailable.

Yet it took Leon Kamin, a Princeton psychologist who had never ventured into the IQ field before, only 10 minutes' reading of one of Burt's papers to divine that his whole edifice of "research" was fraudulent - though establishing its fraudulence conclusively took, of course, longer. The choicest element in the tale is the non-entirety of Burt's two celebrated assistants, "Miss Margaret Howard" and "Miss J. Conway", who had for so long been so indefatigable in chasing all over England testing those strangely numerous pairs of separated twins. These respectable ladies can claim to be the most influential characters in modern English fiction in that they (and their "findings") were largely responsible for the tripartite division of the 1944 Education Act.

When the truth eventually came tumbling out, it appeared that other toilers in this particular vineyard had long had doubts about the authenticity of Burt's research (especially the wildly implausible neatness and uniformity of his correlations), but cowed by the strength of his personality, and his formidable abrasiveness of tongue and pen, had never dared to question or speak out. Such cravenness would be forgivable in Stalin's Russia, where opposing the agricultural lunacies of Lysenkoism (fully chronicled here) could earn you Gulag or death, but in a free society, such intellectual cowardice seems inexcusable - and again destructive of the scientist's very reason for existence.

Mr Broad and Mr Wade, both American journalists, have produced an efficient and wide-ranging survey of similar fraud. They have hit precisely the right balance between scientific detail and the summarizing simplification necessary for general readership. Some of the most famous cases they scrutinize remain unproven. Was it the Lamarckian Paul Kammerer himself who injected Indian ink into the nuptial pads of his male midwife toads - or was it some over-zealous assistant trying (in the event, disastrously) to do his boss a good turn by making his results look more impressive? Koestler expended a whole book arguing Kammerer's innocence, but the circumstantial evidence of his guilt remains strong. As in some of the best murder cases, we shall never know for certain.

The most disturbing remark in a book which, by showing the prevalence of scientific fraud, is rather alarming, comes from a mathematician commenting on the ease with which Uri Geller convinced "experts" of his "psychic powers": "Any magician will tell you that scientists are the easiest persons in the world to fool."

Martin Fagg

BOOKS



Cupid dipped in wine - sepia wash over pencil by Henry Pierce Bone (1770-1835) - an illustration from Susan Lambert's *Drawing: Technique and Purpose which uses over 100 drawings from the V&A to illustrate the wide range of materials and media available to the artist for making drawings. Available from Troil Books, 7 Royal Parade, Dares Road, London SW6, £6.95.*

Wars, and rumours of wars

Voices 1870-1914. By Peter Vansittart. Cape £9.95, 0 224 02103 6.

Those who know the author's *Voices from the Great War* will know what to expect from this book, and they will not be disappointed. Those who do not can expect a new experience in reading: not an anthology, not a string of quotations, but a remarkable collection of items from many sources which collectively express the "feel" of a fascinating period. Speeches, letters, diaries, histories, poems - even a French homeopathic journal, are mined for material. We hear the voices of kings, emperors, politicians, soldiers and murderers. (Crippen writes, astonishingly, of one of his victims that "Her mind was beautiful to me".)

Mr Vansittart says that he has a magpie mind and likes bits of really useless knowledge such as that "Charles Dickens had a teacher who wore onions in his ears". Fortunately, however, most of the items he has collected here are much more significant than that, and many hauntingly so. Of course all the voices of that period are now stilled, but as Clemenceau reminded us, "One must pay attention to the dead". They have made the journey we all must make, and despite the apparently different time in which they lived, we can learn from them. Provided, of course, that men and women ever learn and are not doomed to repeat all the mistakes of their ancestors. For example, H. G. Wells was writing in 1911 that the "fraternal agitation overaccretes" all those sexual differences I want to minimize and shakes my faith in the common humanity of women". Would he not have had similar feelings about

the excesses of feminism in the past two decades? All the same, it is salutary to be reminded that D. H. Lawrence, writing before the First World War, advised a young man about to marry: "Be gentle with her when she is gentle, but if she tries to impose her will on you, beat her." It is mercifully hard today to imagine schools where flogging was "untenable", and a headmaster who followed the flogging by kissing his victim "to convince him that all was now atoned and forgiven".

The book will delight lovers of irony, as they read the many assurances from distinguished figures right into 1914 that war would not come. If it did it would be short, and that anyway, the Germans were to be honoured as "strong, patient and industrious people" who stood among the leaders of civilization. (This last from no less an authority than Winston Churchill.) Some might think that Rosa Luxemburg had a warning for a contemporary iron lady as well as Mr Andropov when she wrote that "Freedom only for the supporters of the Government, however large - is no freedom at all. Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for whoever thinks differently". The Titanic disaster deservedly gets several entries, including one from a deck-hand who said "God himself couldn't sink this ship"; but the most illuminating comment comes from one of the comparatively few modern writers invoked by Mr Vansittart. Walter Lord saw the Titanic as "the last stand of wealth and society in the centre of public affection", pointing out what is obvious when it is pointed out, that there were then no

movie or television stars and the social elite provided the vicarious glamour to enrich drab lives.

"I am anxious to entertain," Mr Vansittart assures us, and certainly there is much that is entertaining in his book. But a book that begins with the Franco-Prussian War and ends with the outbreak of the First World War has to be much more than a fun-book. There are the inevitable voices telling us that "war is a holy thing" or "the highest expression of culture" and that a blood bath will cleanse the nation, but the most impressive voice is that of Winston Churchill: "Much as war attracts and fascinates my mind with all its tremendous situations - I feel more deeply every year what vile and wicked folly and barbarism it all is". That is the predominant feeling this book leaves me with, but of course men always seem to act on the principle that "all war is wicked - except this one".

The dialectical interplay between voices giving very different views of the same event or situation keeps the reader wide awake and thinking, and to compile such a collection shows not only voracious, but very perceptive reading. Nevertheless, the reviewer is allowed to show his own erudition by regretting the omission of a voice he considers should have been included: that of the philosopher R. G. Collingwood, who in his autobiography recalled reading the first issue of the *Daily Mail* in 1896 and finding it an ominous turning point because it was a newspaper designed to mislead rather than to inform. Remarkable at its date, to have foreseen the rising of the Sun.

Roy Shaw

Wallpaper wise

William Morris. By Peter Stankey. Oxford University Press £1.95 0 19 287571 X, £7.95 287572 8. Political Writings of William Morris. Edited by A. L. Morton. Lawrence and Wishart £7.50, 85315 586 0, £2.50, 257 8.

The visitor to the ICA who listened to readings from *The Earthly Paradise*, studied the minutes of "A. M. S. S. S.", watched the video on printing wallpaper, read the anti-capitalist collage, took a boat trip to Nowhere and still only saw half the recent exhibition on William Morris, will appreciate Peter Stankey's problem in trying to encompass the man's life and work in 89 pages. Morris can be taken in so many ways: the Marxist who interests A. L. Morton also designed those Hampton wallpaper (if you live anywhere else, you can't afford them), the visionary political agitator saw the future through the Middle Ages and the Icelandic traveller was escaping the frigidity of an unhappy marriage.

Stankey's book achieves precisely what it sets out to do: to provide the starting-point for further study and at the same time to show how these varied aspects of a single mind. His sympathies extend to the non-collected romances of Morris.

Robin Russ

Greenland

Graham Greene. By John Spurling. Methuen £1.95, 0 416 31850 9.

Despite its general preface ("the contemporary is a country which we all inhabit..."), this series on "Contemporary Writers" seems to offer unpretentious guides and, in the case of John Spurling's treatment of Graham Greene, does not try to over-sell its subject. Spurling sets the main themes of the novels against the background of Greene's life and encourages you to test his judgments by reading or re-reading the books.

There is always a danger that such studies will be taken as road-maps for blithely one's way through this country which we all inhabit, rather than as handbooks for studying it, especially when the guide refuses to make excessive claims for his chosen region. But Spurling communicates his feeling for Greene's "intimate passion" as well as situating him among his contemporaries and in comparison with his models. Even Greene's admirers, who may not agree with his final assessment, will appreciate this concise exposition of the writer's obsessive themes.

R R

American map

The Literature of the United States of America. By Marshall Walker. Macmillan £14.00. 0 333 32298 3, £3.95 32299 1. **American Literature in Context I: 1620-1830.** By Stephen Fender. Methuen £5.50. 0 416 74590 3. **American Literature in Context II: 1865-1900.** By Andrew Hook. Methuen £5.50. 0 416 73680 7.

Marshall Walker's volume in the "Macmillan History of Literature" provides a highly readable survey of American literature, including, despite the title, Colonial writing. Comprehensive in allusion, and suggesting connections not only with history, but also with music, art, and popular culture, it covers a large area with generally sound judgment, though, as in the discussion of twice the space to Robert Penn Warren as to Hemingway, seems occasionally perverse. The project founders somewhat in the post-1945 period, where sheer diversity, and lack of a settled historic canon, imposes a too synoptic, inevitably inadequate, perspective.

There is no great re-drawing of the literary map here; his emphasis is fairly conventional, and the uninitiated reader to whom the book is addressed will find much of subsequent interest among the works simply noted, as well as a necessary simplification of complex issues. None the less, it fulfils the essential function of any introductory survey, offering a sound and accurate

coverage of the field which will in turn provoke questions, trace routes of enquiry. That Walker also manages to avoid the dull plod of too many such texts stands greatly to his credit. Methuen's *American Literature in Context* series adopts a different approach, discarding narrative history in favour of essays on individual writers, with a brief extract from their work forming the basis of a wider-ranging contextual enquiry. Stephen Fender follows the dream of American as natural paradise into the emergent political and national entity. Andrew Hook the post-war shift from frontier romanticism into industrial capitalism, as reflected in a range of writers of all kinds in each period.

The audience is again assumed to be a fairly new one, and the essays are pitched at an introductory level, with the merit of promoting textual analysis in their basic method; for the most part, they adhere to their stated intentions. The suspicion remains, however, that they will provide convenient cribs, rather than the provocative stimulant hoped for by editor Arnold Goldman. These textbooks appear at a time when American Studies seems to have reached a low ebb in British education. At the time of writing, there is no full-time Professor of American Literature remaining in a British university, and the long-anticipated shift into the school curriculum has never materialized, with prospects dim in the current climate. Ironically, these books might be fulfilling a need which the educational system itself is increasingly less able to accommodate.

Kenny Mathieson

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BOOKS

Strictly for fanatics

Young Engineer Series: In the Home, In the Air, By Graham Weston. At Sea, On the Road, On the Waterway, In the Factory, On the Railway, In Communication, By Malcolm Dixon. Wayland £3.50 each.

Educationalists are constantly being reminded by the government and by industrialists that Britain needs more, and better qualified, engineers and technologists. Additional emphasis is placed on the need to steer girls as well as boys towards the world of applied science. Presumably a number of people believe that the influence should begin early, with young children, because these authors have attempted to produce a series which, to quote the blurb on the back cover, is "designed to teach children the basics of engineering. Through simple experiments and model building, children learn how engineering principles and techniques are used in our everyday lives".

Few teachers would argue with the validity of the intention, and indeed the idea for the series is a welcome change from the plethora of publications about dinosaurs, Romans and magnets in the school library. Unfortunately the books possess a number of deficiencies in the style of writing, the choice of overall approach, the illustrations, and in the complexity of the equipment required to carry out the suggested activities. Together these deficiencies could dissuade many children from having anything to do with "engineering" at all. The books are strictly for fanatics but even they might be rather stunned by the quantity of work expected of them on virtually every page.

The problems arise mainly from the fact that the series is intended for the school or public library and therefore is unlikely to be accompanied by direction and help from teachers and parents. Books which simply and attractively provide information are easy to cope with, as are textbooks designed for careful use by a child with a teacher, but these books fit neither model and are likely to have difficulty in finding readers willing to give them

more than a cursory glance.

The overall design of the books gives a misleading impression. The children shown in most of the illustrations look to be about eight or nine years of age, but the required reading skill and expected mental sophistication is at a much higher level on many of the pages. All the books contain numerous illustrations, but they are rather sketchy in style, and are difficult to "read" for detail. In one or two cases they make the children look rather inhuman and sinister, probably because the eyes are rarely fully shown and therefore the children never look bright or interested.

The style of writing is an unsuitable mixture of oversimplification followed by confusing lack of clarity and incredible pace in the presentation of concepts. The pages are crowded with questions which tumble one after the other, mixing simple recall with questions requiring extensive analysis or synthesis of facts or skills. The approach is therefore insufficiently progressive or systematic, rarely leading the reader smoothly within concept developments, or from one concept to another. The amount of special equipment, the expected freedom to make visits, and the space required to undertake many activities is excessive for almost all children. Examples include "find a small electric motor", "show many different types of bridges can you find?", "find a model steam engine. Fill the boiler with water. Heat the boiler", "if you have a loft, take a look up there", "make some concrete in a yoghurt pot".

The authors seem to have become victims of their own high level of knowledge. The intention of the books is quite correct and indeed "engineering" should be a part of the primary curriculum. However, the authors' time would probably have been better spent producing a book for teachers, rather than children. Unsupervised dabbling in conceptually complex and potentially dangerous activities is not the way to develop knowledge of applied science.

Paul Harling

LOGO gravy-train

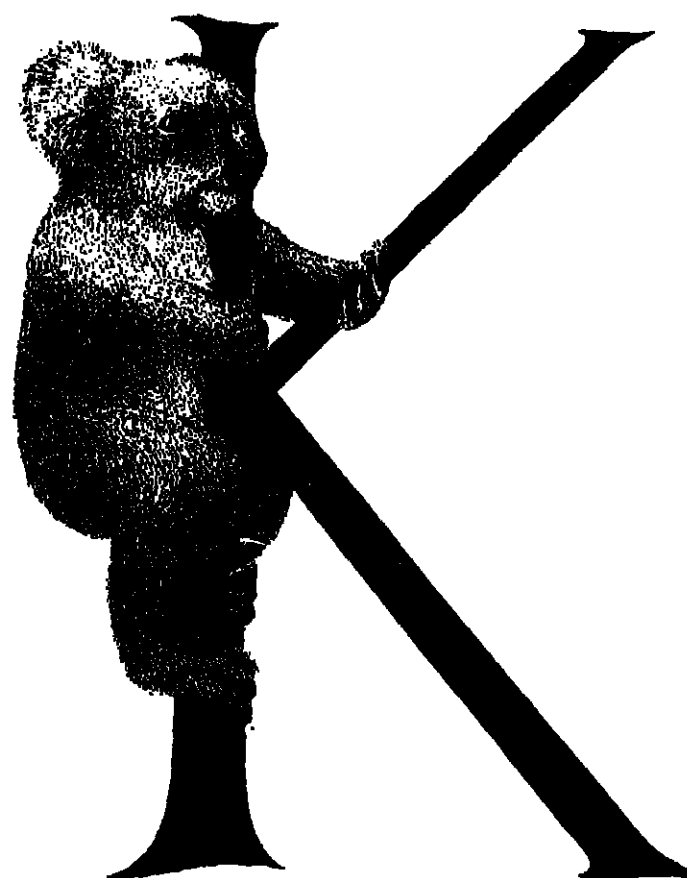
Learning with LOGO. By Daniel Watt. McGraw-Hill £16.95. 0 07 1885703. LOGO - A Guide to Learning Through Programming. By Peter Goodyear. Ellis-Horwood/Hinemann. 0 431 990107.

Just as there were over the last two to three years a morass of alleged LOGO programs that had inadequate facilities to enable the learner to play, experiment and grasp concepts, which was the essential concern of LOGO's designers, so there have recently been a spate of books that similarly alleged that they would clear to use that LOGO. It is perfectly clear to me that their writers had gone only to secondary sources and had merely attempted to pass on to their readers their own fundamental misconceptions. Like the pseudo-LOGO programs, these authors had merely hoped to climb on the LOGO gravy-train.

Matters were more difficult for the book-writers than for the program-writers, first because the LOGO pioneers, themselves, produced such excellent books, thoroughly informed by their educational intentions, and second because, in contrast, there was not until recently many widely available LOGO in this country from which experience could be gained.

Things are changing now: there are tolerable LOGO's on many home-computers; even on the BBC there are at least two, each of which is a full LOGO in the sense that it is not restricted to Turtlegraphics, and contains the necessary programming structures for the user to create and explore objective personalities to otherwise remote abstract concepts: this is the heart of LOGO's educational philosophy.

John Laski



"In this book there lies a game: spot the creatures, give each its name." Bert Kitchen's beautiful Animal Alphabet is published by Patrick Hardy on April 24. £6.50.

Life's lumps

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

The Song of Roland Smith. By Jenny Koralek. Patrick Hardy Books £4.50.
The Adventures of Baxter and Co. By Robert Leeson. Collins £4.95.
One Way Only. By Gwen Grant. Heinemann £6.95.
Marley and Friends. By Ted Greenwood. Hutchinson £4.95.

Jenny Koralek's first children's book, *The Song of Roland Smith*, is a lovely story about two boys who get themselves into trouble and then, with the help of an understanding teacher, find purpose and contentment in helping someone else. Some of life's hard lumps - the death of a puppy, an encounter with a physically handicapped contemporary - are dealt with movingly but without saccharin excess. The ending is a satisfying happy weep.

The Adventures of Baxter and Co contains two stories previously published separately - "The Demon Bike Rider" and "Challenge in the Dark". They are linked by the main characters - Mike Baxter, Ranji, Sandra and Andrew. These young folk are entirely believable - an impression brought

about by Leeson's relaxed and amusing observation of life in the Baxter household.

One Way Only is life in the Fifties seen through the eyes of a Nottingham girl. The thoughts, episodes and dialogue have the authentic ring; the stories are fast moving and often very funny.

"Our Lucy bought us all tickets for her play, the one she's acting in. She came in yesterday and she hands these bits of cardboard to our Mum and our Mum goes peer, peer at them and then she says, 'What's these?'"

"Tickets for the play, Mam' our Lucy says. I'm treating you all."

Gwen Grant endears herself to me by her understanding of how young people use the expression "she goes". This is a right grand hook. It would go well read aloud to a class.

Marley and Friends would perhaps be appreciated by children at the lower end of the junior age range. It is an unusual story about a little girl who lives a lonely and rather restricted life and who consequently has developed a richly peopled imaginative world into which she can escape. Fact and fantasy are woven together in a whimsical, evocative and open-ended way. "They were sitting in Rainbow Cave, there they played again with the coloured light from the window, with the bed, and the roller skate."

An out-of-the-rut offering this and worth trying for that reason.

Gerald Haigh

Seamless ease

Computers and Your Child - a plain language guide for parents. By Ray Hammond. Century Publishing Company £5.95. 0 7126 0092 2.

Computers and Your Child explores how mind-expanding it can be for children to be familiar with computer programs suited to their age, and Ray Hammond expresses his disquiet that many schools have shunted "computer studies" into a subject which goes on underneath the traditional, essentially custodial, priorities of the school day, with each child making just 45 keyboard strokes a week.

Ray Hammond is enthused by Logo and Papert's *Mindstorms*. An essay no longer need be planned when it can be constructed on a word processor where you can cut and paste paragraphs without the tedious showing; computers can relate musical notation to sounds

and serve as a vehicle for teaching music theory; computers have even enabled teenage "blocks" to be overcome, and very much more.

There is a lot of good material here for any parent or P.T.A. that wants to know how children can sensibly use computers, and Ray Hammond's claim to be jargon-free is fair; he does introduce and use some technical terms when he needs them, but he defines them before he does so.

A bibliography of further reading would have been more useful than the survey of available machines in which the author seems to believe that if a manufacturer has software in his catalogue, that software is available.

I am surprised to find an index in a book of this kind. Maybe his word processor produces it automatically, and, it might be useful, so why not print it?

lingo

"Mais on sont les neiges d'antan?" asks *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, thus showing that François Villon's "But where are the snows of yesterday?" has become a part of English culture as well as of French.

But which lines of French poetry are best known to the French themselves? A tantalizing clue is provided by a recent anthology published by the French Reader's Digest (*Les Plus Belles Pages de la poésie française*, 179 francs). Its introduction reminds readers that poetry is more important in their lives than they may realize, and supports its claim with some verses they can all be expected to know. Villon's is there, and so is a line of Racine's that is also an Oxford quotation: Phèdre's terrifying avowal of passion "C'est Vénus tout entière à sa proie attachée" ("It's Venus herself at grips with her prey").

French lovers can beg for an eternity of bliss: "O temps! suspends ton vol" ("O Time! Suspend thy flight"). French parents, rather in the spirit of Longfellow's "Children's Hour", can exclaim "Lorsque l'enfant paraît, le cercle de famille Applaudit à grands cris" ("When the child appears, the family circle Applauds and cheers"). When nature-lovers see a wood-cutter at work, they can call out indignantly: "Écoute, bûcheron, arrive un peu le bras" - rather like "Woodman, spare that tree!"

May these other lines, by Lamartine, Hugo, and Ronsard, remind us Anglophones that "There is a world elsewhere".

Robert Ilson

End it all

Countdown. By Patrick Moore. Rainbird £4.95. 0 7181 2291 7.

When the French mathematician Laplace wrote a paper called "Reflections on the Probabilities of the Earth" in 1773, he started a panic about the end of the world which resulted in clergymen selling preferential tickets for seats in Paradise. Comets have been hailed as portents of disasters ranging from the death of kings to the end of civilization as we know it. There is a small quantifiable chance of a direct hit from a comet large enough to fracture the earth's crust and cause quite a mess.

In the end-of-the-world predictions examined in *Countdown*, comets (thus form a neat bridge between theories based on superstition or religion and those derived from scientific analysis). The former are exemplified by the many predictions of the coming of the Messiah. The best scientific forecast of the moment is that the sun will turn into a red giant in about 5,000 million years, giving a slow burn to any surviving life on earth.

The wilder speculations of von Daniken and Velikovsky, for all their recent popularity, are given no longer shrift than most of the other answers considered to the question "How high is the end?", the sub-title of the book.

Patrick Moore's answer, gives the straight astronomer's answer, where there is one, to explain why theories are impossible. They lead him into familiar set pieces like astrology is bunk, and he stretches his format to repeat that Zodiacal constellations are only chance transitory groups which are no longer dominant in the sky in the month they are meant to influence.

Another favourite topic is the possibility of life in space. Moore believes in the probability of life in the farthest parts of the Universe. To reach the earth, such aliens would have to be technically far beyond the potentially destructive nuclear age we ourselves have reached. Consequently, he claims, invaders from space would be peaceful, otherwise they would have destroyed themselves!

Moore is such a successful popularizer that it almost churlish to question his facility. It must be largely due to his achievement in making astronomy a subject of general interest that the Fersell shower of meteorites was featured so widely in the press and on television last August. At the same time readers may find his whimsicality more superficial and irritating than entertaining. A second reading on his part would probably have led him to a better word than holocaust to describe destruction by flood.

Judith Mirzoeff

BOOKS

Higher ranks and branches

Chrestomathia. By Jeremy Bentham. Edited by M.J. Smith and W.H. Burton. Oxford University Press £40.00. 0 19 822610 1.

The last edition of this work was published in 1843, and was edited by Southwood Smith, a noted physician and splendid pioneer of both public health and technical education. When Bentham left his body for anatomical research it was Southwood Smith who performed the dissection, as well as delivering the funeral oration. The present handsome and durable edition is a fully annotated and corrected version of Southwood Smith's text, and will, no doubt, fill such demand as there is for the work for another century or more. It is part of a long-term publishing project presenting Bentham's collected works.

Jeremy Bentham applied his classifying and systematizing mind to the curriculum and teaching methods of secondary education in 1813 or so, and invented a word to embrace his findings which first appeared in 1815-17. *Chrestomathia*, he explained, means *conductive to useful learning*, and his long titlepage described the book as a proposal for a Chrestomathic School for the extension of the new system of instruction "to the higher branches of learning, for the use of the middling and higher ranks in life".

Together with other luminaries of the freethinking intelligentsia like Francis Place and James Mill, Bentham admired the monitorial system both for efficiency and economy, and wanted to extend it from primary schools intended for the children of the

poor to secondary schools for those "middling ranks" who were not catered for by traditional boarding schools or endowed grammar schools, with their Anglican and classical bias. The heart of the text is his attempt to construct a Tree of Knowledge, developing those of Bacon and d'Alembert. The book's perplexing fold-out charts show the interconnectedness of the arts and sciences and the way they should determine both the curriculum and the order in which subjects are learned.

Bentham and his friends took up the idea of establishing a model school and hoped to build it on the garden of the author's house, off Birdcage Walk, inviting subscriptions for this purpose. Other sites were then sought, including the middle of Leicester Square, a proposal which was dropped because of objections from the neighbouring shopkeepers. In the end the project was abandoned and the subscriptions returned.

However, schools were set up which conformed in many respects to Chrestomathic principles. The most famous for students of the history of education was Thomas Hill's Hazelwood School at Edgbaston. In fact Bentham wrote, to (of all people) Simon Bolivar in 1825, that he had abandoned any idea of starting a school of his own since Hill's school was being run on principles "perfectly agreeing with mine", and that thus his theory had "received the fullest confirmation from practice".

Does he have any message for educators today? Well, curiously, he does. The present editors see Bentham's theory of language as having

important psychological implications since it "determined that children should learn by direct sense-perception rather than through words which merely symbolised reality". Here of course he was a precursor of current theories recommending Total Physical Response as a more successful alternative to other approaches to language learning.

And among his many hilarious neologisms describing the principles of education, we come across the Self Service Principle demanding that pupils are compelled to perform for themselves the minor chores ancillary to education, and the Scholar Jury Principle of pupil self-government. Bentham

claimed four advantages: "1. The Masdegree, if not altogether, from the suspicion of partiality and tyranny. 2. By the necessary solemnities by which the application of the punishment is thus preceded, the attention of the scholar is more firmly fixed upon it, and the idea of it rendered the more impressive. 3. The scholars are, at this early age, initiated in the exercise of the functions of judicature, as well as in the knowledge of what belongs to justice, while the love of it insinuates itself into their breasts. 4. The tendency, so natural amongst persons of any age subject to coercion, to unite in a sort of standing conspiracy against those by whom they are kept under that pressure, is counteracted and diminished."

Since all of us involved in education are the victims of that standing conspiracy, here is one of Bentham's observations that we should take very seriously.

Colin Ward



Karate students in training: one of the illustrations to *The Way of the Warrior* by Howard Reid and Michael Crancher (Century £6.95). "It is a sad fact," say the authors, "that only a fraction of the knowledge gained by a production team can actually be incorporated into a finished documentary film." Hence this book, designed to complement the BBC series, brings out telling contrasts between East and West, notably the fact that oriental warriors see fighting as an art, closely intertwined with religion and also with medicine.

Power programme

Nuclear Power. By Walter C. Patterson. Pelican £2.50.

Sun Traps. By John Elkington. Pelican £3.95.

Energy, A Guidebook. By Janet Ramsay. Oxford University Press £15.00 and £5.95.

Oil and World Power. By Peter R. Odell. Pelican £2.95.

"Never take any one viewpoint as gospel, including this one," states Patterson in the preface to this second edition of his book, *Nuclear Power*, thereby acknowledging from the start the depth and controversy of his topic before going on to present a clear and full picture of the global nuclear power programme from its beginnings in the 1940s to the present day.

The book is divided into two sections; the first providing a comprehensive layman's guide to the technical workings of nuclear reactors and an explanation of the nuclear fuel cycle, and the second providing discussion and historical perspective. Highlighted are the changes in assumptions and attitudes towards nuclear power by experts and non-experts alike and a greater awareness of the economic, social and environmental implications of the commitment to such a form of energy, as a result of new developments. Well presented though this is,

any attempt Patterson may have made to be cautiously objective in the book tends to be crushed by the rather sensationalized accounts of nuclear accidents and near-accidents, printed in italics for added emphasis. He concludes with a warning: "Before we commit ourselves and our descendants to a nuclear future, it is vital that we concur in and understand the nature of the commitment. If we undertake it now, we do so for a long time."

Although quick to point out that "this is not an anti-nuclear book", John Elkington is concerned with "the continuing search for economic means of extracting energy from renewable sources", and in *Sun Traps* discusses a varied selection of alternative forms from geothermal to hydropower and solar power. The availability and applications of each form of energy are clearly described and explained with examples, diagrams and some photographs and the practicality and economic viability assessed. Less technical and more optimistic in tone than *Nuclear Power* (Elkington argues that since alternative forms are available they should be developed and exploited), *Sun Traps* provides an interesting and detailed introduction to renewable energy sources.

For those who feel daunted by the technicalities of the energy debate and unqualified to join in *Energy, A Guidebook* is an easy to follow handbook written in plain language. It introduces the reader to the basic laws

and concepts involved, explaining all terms, units and abbreviations, before discussing the major energy technologies in terms of how we use energy. Present technologies deal with, predictions for the future are offered, opening with the "penalties" of our present energy systems and continuing with future resources and their alternatives.

The political implications of energy forms are what Peter Odell interestingly reveals in his book *Oil and World Power* in which our dependence on oil for everyday needs is underlined as an important consideration in issues of international relations. The roles played by the US, the Soviet Union, Western Europe, Japan, the developing countries of the Third World, and of course the major oil-exporting countries themselves are all discussed in informative detail, as is the role played by the major international oil companies who, until recently, dominated the industry. This seventh edition provides the opportunity for an updated account of what is an ever-changing situation, while also predicting possible future developments which may even now be taking place. Yet, as he cautions "the dynamics of the industry... are now so great that even the relatively short period between writing the text and its publication may prove the author wrong in respect of the short term outlook".

Rachel Neaman

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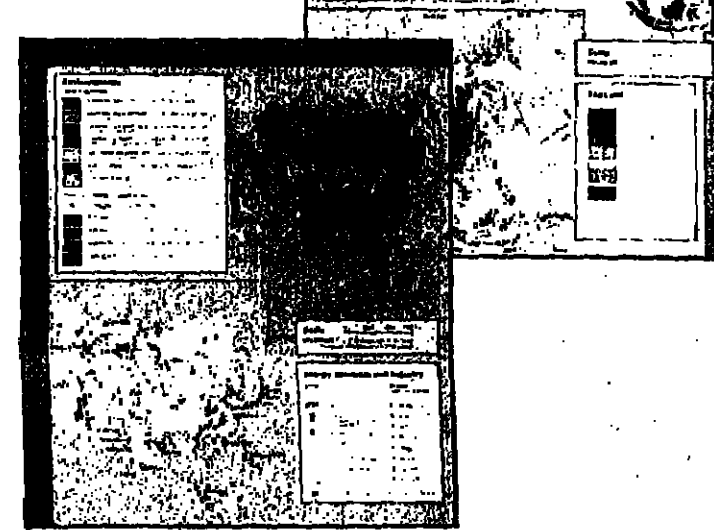
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The evidence of 'Jesus: the evidence'

James Bentley on one good book, one bad book, and an 'incompetent' television series

Is Christianity True? By Michael Arnheim.
Duckworth £7.95. 0 7156 1880 6.
Jesus: The Evidence.
London Weekend Television for
Channel 4 Sundays April 8, 15, 22 at
9.15pm.
Jesus: The Evidence. By Ian Wilson.
Weidenfeld and Nicolson £10.95. 0 297
7832 4.

Publishers love a film and television tie-up for a new book. The larger companies increasingly employ film and television officers whose entire job is to fraternize with producers and directors, keeping up-to-date with future plans. If a publisher's backlist includes a book shortly to be serialized on television, the work will be reissued with a new, expensive, television image, appearing in bookshops just as that image is passing incandescently through the minds of the general public.

No one, then, will be surprised to find Duckworth's promoting Michael Arnheim's *Is Christianity True?* (published to coincide with) the controversial three-part Channel 4 series *Jesus: The Evidence*. Oddly enough, though, till last week nobody connected with the series knew anything about Arnheim's book. The official TV/publishing tie-up is with the book by Ian Wilson, published by Weidenfeld.

As one Weidenfeld editor said to me of Duckworth's (perfectly legal) play, "How very clever!" Unfortunately that is the only clever thing about the whole book. Michael Arnheim, professor of classical civilization at the University of the Witwatersrand, has written *Aristocracy in Greek Society* and a book about South Africa after Vorster. His new book attempts to demonstrate that "all the claims made for Jesus in the Christian creed are untenable". Before embarking on such a contentious project, Arnheim should have mastered the rudiments of the subject. *Is Christianity True?* is filled with elementary errors. "In the Christian writings," Arnheim asserts, "the only performer of miracles is Jesus." Yet two Gospels record Jesus as asking his critics "If I by Beelzebub cast out



devils, by whom do your sons cast them out?" And Matthew's Gospel has him ordering his disciples to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and cast out devils as he did. Arnheim tells us that Matthew and Mark quote Jesus's words on the cross in Aramaic. In fact Matthew quotes them in Hebrew, Arnheim adds, wrongly, that this is the only time Jesus is quoted in Aramaic. He calls John Knox, born 1900 in Frankfort, Kentucky, a British theologian. There is, he says, no cult of relics in Judaism. (His bibliography, which gives the impression that he reads German, lists six works by the Göttingen scholar Joachim Jeremias, all in English translation, but not Jeremias's *Heiligengraber in Jesu Umwelte*, which identifies no fewer than 49 tombs where the Jews venerated the supposed relics of Old Testament prophets and martyrs.)

If you can't trust people in little matters, Jesus once warned, don't trust them with great ones. The inkling that something is going seriously wrong with London Weekend Television's attempt to assess the evidence

about Jesus comes from the programme makers' inability to get little facts right. Romantic footage of a Greek monk being hauled in a basket up the walls of St Catherine's monastery on Mount Sinai is accompanied with the statement that this is the only way in, even though for years the way into that monastery has been through doors in the wall. Then we are told that the famous ancient Bible from St Catherine's, now in the British Museum, is an "almost complete copy of the Old and New Testaments in Greek," when in truth much of the Old Testament is missing. The film depicts Martin Luther as making the first translation of the Bible into the language of the people, ignorant of the fact that 22 German versions had been made before his. Casting director Jane Davies chose an actor to play the part of the theologian Rudolf Bultmann without bothering to find out that Bultmann wore a moustache. When the television film depicts Bultmann about to preach in a Marburg church, nobody remembered that German Lutherans sing their hymns sitting down.

Researcher Jean Claude Bragard must bear much responsibility for this incompetence. But the mistake of allowing Professor George Wells to appear in the programmes must be attributed to the editor, John Norridge, and the producer/director, David Rolfe - especially as Norridge went on record at the press preview as finding Wells's views "manifestly ludicrous". Wells, like Michael Arnheim, is one of those scholars all too willing to stray out of their own discipline into that of theology. A professor of German studies, author of *Corinth and the Development of Science*, he appears in *Jesus: The Evidence* to tell us that Jesus never lived.

Of course reputable scholars do appear in these programmes. Reports that Professor Werner Georg Kummel of Marburg had withdrawn from the series proved false. (Kummel told me last week, "I haven't seen the final films, but I'm very glad they're being transmitted.") And Professor Dennis Nineham is on hand, informing us, *inter alia*, that a Gospel, far from being a straight biography is "a work of

theology, or if you like, propaganda". (When Nineham was Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, would he have enjoyed being called "Regius Professor of Propaganda"?) When the American professor Morton Smith makes his appearance in programme two, viewers might reasonably conclude that the principal aim of this series is simply to shock. Ten years ago Morton Smith published a newly-discovered late second-century document quoting a "secret Gospel of Mark". This fragmentary manuscript suggests that once, perhaps in some ritual initiation, Jesus spent a night with a youth who was wearing a linen cloth over his naked body. On the flimsy evidence of this dubious document Morton Smith on television advances the hypothesis that in a "secret nocturnal initiation Jesus may have given the initiates (sic) a hypnotic experience that would make them share his ascent to the kingdom of heaven." From this he concludes that Jesus was a magician. The television commentary observes, "Unless further corroborative material emerges, it remains an intriguing speculation". But the programmes are meant to be about evidence, not speculation.

At one press preview an embarrassed Ian Wilson was found attempting to distance himself from the negative thrust of these programmes. "When I look at a glass of beer," he said, "I see it as half-full; the programme makers see it as half-empty." Happily he and Weidenfeld have produced a handsome, well-illustrated book, infinitely better than the television series it accompanies. Wilson offers a serious, clearly-written attempt to scrutinize the surviving evidence about Jesus (taking in the theories of George Wells and Morton Smith *en route*). It ends with a plea for "all to recognize that in the case of Jesus, perhaps uniquely, there is no formula, no one view of him that can adequately explain or encompass him".

James Bentley's next book, *Our Christian Heritage*, written in collaboration with Warwick Redwell, will be published by George Philip on June 4.

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The London Line

Educational Theory and Its Foundation Disciplines. Edited by Paul H. Hirst. Routledge and Kegan Paul £3.95. 0 7100 9763 8.

Education, Policy and Society. Edited by Ben Cosin and Margaret Hales. 0 7102 0011 0.

Achievement and Inequality in Education. Edited by June Purvis and Margaret Hales. 0 7100 9763 8.

The Sociology of Education. By Jeanne H. Ballantine. Prentice-Hall £21.55. 0 13 029860 3.

Professor Hirst's book is a "state of the art" update of J. W. T. Tibble's *The Study of Education* (Routledge 1966), discussing current trends in education theory's foundation disciplines - the philosophy, psychology, sociology and history of education. Education studies began to take off in a big way in the Sixties, and in this country it was at London University that it was all happening. Professor Hirst was lecturing there on philosophy of education as was another contributor to this book, Professor Peters, then as now. Since those early confident days research has proliferated, American and French influences have become increasingly important particularly in sociology, many and varied Marxist approaches have developed, and the "London line" has come under attack for its limited view of the nature of education and its attempts to define and classify its processes too rigidly.

The two professors are happy to accept criticism while still seeing their first ideas as formative and paradigmatic. Some of the discussion seems a bit arid though, for instance the continuing debate with which Professor Hirst begins, on what should be understood by educational theory in the first place. Is it simply the theory behind the practice of education, and if so should it take ends into account as well as means? Does this lay educators open to a charge of social engineering, and can this be justified? Certainly these are important issues, and students of education, particularly in-

tending teachers should be aware of them, but a blow by blow account of scholarly arguments about them over the last 20 years, when there is little agreement at the end of it, is not going to be a major interest.

Somehow teachers manage to keep teaching without always being aware of the deep thoughts going on in university education departments and even to develop their own philosophies. With no shortage of encouragement these days to think critically about what they're doing and how and why they're doing it, they tend to be more interested in empirical studies than abstract ones, and certainly know more about the meaning of evaluation and accountability than does Professor Nisbet, writing here on the psychology of education, who thinks they're the new fashionable terms for testing.

None of the contributors, surveying his field and handling the names and dates of research articles, really achieves a striking exposition of the current state of his discipline. Professor Peters remembers his "London line" with nostalgia, but suggests in grand Kuhnian terms that there will be a paradigm shift away from it. If you see education as much as a means of perpetuating power structures and elites as a noble agent of democracy, if you've identified its built-in programmes for inequality, if you see it as a continuing process rather than just synonymous with schooling, you might consider this has already happened.

Some of these newer views are discussed in the two other books from Routledge which are readers for the Open University Course "Conflict and Change in Education: a sociological introduction". Both are collections of reprints covering a range of issues connected with the relationship between education and society. *Education, Policy and Society* is the more theoretical; the articles illustrate the development of methodology in the field, some of the fundamental polarities in attitudes to education, such as progressivism versus the traditional concern for "standards", and examines the effects of education on the labour

market and social class. It ends by considering the motivations behind decision-making and to what extent policy is dictated by factors other than ideology.

These are important issues but this selection of articles is likely to make more sense read in conjunction with the rest of the OU course material than hauled up as presented here. The same is not necessarily true, though, of *Achievement and Inequality in Education* where the research described is more practical and school-based, with a consequently more immediate appeal at least for practising teachers. The effects of teachers' individual principles and coping strategies, and of the "hidden curriculum" - a school's built-in disciplinary and cultural values - are discussed, and there is a valuable section on unequal educational provision for girls and women which is amplified in one of the other set books on the course, Michelle Stunworth's *Gender and Schooling* (Reviewed in *The TES* 25.2.82).

The Sociology of Education is an American textbook written mainly for students new to the subject, whose concerns are clearly spelled out in a way which would have benefited *Educational Theory and Its Foundation Disciplines*. It calls itself a systematic analysis and to systematic could well have been added comprehensive. It thus shows quite a contrast with the selectivity of the OU readers, though it is much of the same ground which is covered and extended; society's relationship with schooling, how different kinds of inequality result from schooling, what we expect our schools to do and what happens to our expectations. The sociology of the school and the classroom, their formal structures as organisms and their self-generated dynamics, and the imprint of teachers' values and methods are covered too. This is a businesslike and well organized book, though its density could be off-putting. Despite its concentration on the American scene, the issues discussed are of wider relevance.

Jessica Saraga

Hot potato

Roman. By Polanski.
Heinemann £12.95. 0 434 59180 7.

"I am widely regarded, I know, as an evil, profligate dwarf. My friends - and the women in my life - know better." These words conclude Roman Polanski's autobiography in which he seeks to correct distortions and inaccuracies which have led to such an impression. The route by which he gained international fame had an unpromising start. When he was still a small child the family was moved to the ghetto in Warsaw where he watched the erection of a huge barrier wall. Repeated raids by German soldiers diminished the beleaguered band of Jews with terrifying frequency, though at this time they had no knowledge of the gas chambers ingeniously designed for them. His mother was taken first, then his sister and grandmother. Finally, as he saw his father being marched away, everyone he knew had disappeared.

He went first to a family who had agreed to foster him and had accepted money from his father, but after a few weeks they passed him on, their nerves broken by the risk of harbouring him. He was handed on from family to family like a hot potato, finally arriving at a remote village where he spent the next three years in abject poverty, with an illiterate peasant family, toiling on their smallholding by day and sleeping in a cubbyhole behind the cowshed by night. He had no papers so he could not attend the village school. He lived on dreams of films he had seen as a small child, particularly when they depicted the free western world and its delights.

At the end of the war, with Poland in the grip of Stalinist Communism, he returned to Krakow where he had to survive largely on his wits. Because of a lack of educational certificates and his despised middle-class origins he found all doors closed to him. However, this determined little street arab explored every possibility and seized



every chance to connect himself with stage and screen until his resilience and resourcefulness gained him, by luck and perseverance, a place at the Lodz Film School.

Much has been said of his subsequent successes and personal tragedies, but the first part of his book covers his childhood: new and fascinating ground. It is written in an easy style and is free from self-pity. The only person he seems to blame is himself for, at the height of his fame, jeopardizing all he had gained by one ill-considered act.

Betty Tadman

Yet Being Someone Other By Laurens van der Post. Penguin £2.95. Laurens van der Post describes *The Odyssey* as "a metaphor of the profound pattern of departure and return which encompasses the human lot on earth". The same claim could be made for his own riveting book.

Frances Hill

Don't scrawl

Writing Fiction. By Garry Disher.
Penguin £1.50. 0 14 00 6830 9.

Inside a corny textbook about how short stories have to be about conflicts, crisis and decision, there is an intelligent and original one attempting to get out, which acknowledges that some of Chekhov's best work does not fit this formula. The reader who perks up at this news is offered a special chapter, with reading list, on "Innovative Fiction". Then it's back to reading Bertrand Russell and the Bible as stylistic models. Much of the advice (type, don't scrawl) is sound, but the book is over-condensed and dull, largely because the writer inflates on us examples of his own pedestrian work.

Valerie Grosvenor Myer

Read in bulk

The Thistle Row. An Anthology of Poetry and Prose by Hugh MacDiarmid. Edited by Alan Bold. Hamish Hamilton £12.95. 0 241 11171 4.

If the reader must work hard, reference books at hand, to glean the manifold rewards of MacDiarmid's complex writings and abstruse language, this "miscellany" provides a good starting point. It is as a poet that MacDiarmid will be remembered, and each aspect of his poetic genius is represented here, flaws and all, including seven previously uncollected poems, all minor but worthwhile additions to the canon.

Bold includes most of his major achievements, from the early lyrics, written in a dense synthetic Scots and



A photograph of Mrs William Morris, one of the illustrations to *The Victorian Art World*, by Jeremy Musas (Barrie and Jenkins £20.00), which accompanies the current exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery.

A refusal to mope

Country Voices: Life and Lore in Farm and Village.
By Charles Kightly.
Thames and Hudson £8.95.
0 500 01314 4.

"From a lot of people doing small jobs, it's gone to a few men working big". So Bill Denby, born into a farming family in 1905, characterizes the radical change he has witnessed. It is the sort of succinct and potent comment that historian Charles Kightly has elicited again and again from the 36 informants whose living remembrance of a vanished world he has recorded and set in order in this splendid book. Kightly lets the speakers make the pace; he learned, he says, "to listen to what people wanted to tell me". None the less, his own skill in presenting oral material in literary form is considerable. He himself remains unobtrusive, while his informants stand defiantly free of page and print. These are real people speaking, in tones and cadences of their own choosing, and with a narrative verve and confidence which makes much modern fiction seem pallid and listless. "The farmer were a bit of a rum bugger - he were a Birmingham chap, a know-all bastard, see..."

This is no exercise in nostalgia. The world it depicts is a harsh one, in which a dead child was "a repairable loss". It is a world made archaic by the First World War, though echoes of it lingered, as the photographs and testi-

mony in this book show, until the Second. Arthur Wade says of the "old-fashioned discipline" of the waggoners, "O course, First War knocked all that on its head". There are no sentimental regrets.

There is, though, a submerged theme: the dignity and self-possession of these men and women, in face of all poverty and hardship. It is a theme that finds its fullest expression in the longest section of the book, "Maggie Joe". Chapman's memories of her family history in Muker, Swaledale. She recalls with vivid clarity a family way of living and feeling, a moral scheme, which though narrowing in some of its effects (for instance the blighting of her grandmother and mother's lives because of illegitimacy) still valued people by their qualities not their possessions. All her memories are skilfully patterned narratives: perhaps the best is the story of her grandfather's death (he was gored by a bull), in which she passes a judgment on his life most eloquent in its simple assertion of that moral scheme: "He was a real good man, my grandfather, one of the best-living men there was; everybody said he wouldn't play a dirty trick on anybody."

That dignity and that self-possession rest, though, on a refusal to mope. So what follows in Maggie's telling is not tribute or lament, but a grimly comic punchline: "But the bull didn't know him in his Sunday suit."

Neil Philip

still widely regarded, with "A Drunk Man Looks At The Thistle" (only sampled here) as his greatest works, to the later discursive, philosophical, scientific poetry, drawing on a specialized English vocabulary, exemplified in "On A Raised Beach", all moving easily from particular to universal. None the less, it is in the less familiar, less accessible essays and fiction that the value of this collection lies.

More than most, MacDiarmid needs to be read in bulk; glorying in contradiction, interested in almost everything, his writing encompasses an astonishing variety of concerns. Erratic to the point of occasional absurdity, his innumerable quotations reveal an incredible diversity of reading and reference, reflected in his poems as clearly as his essays. Read together, the two comment illuminatingly on each other, an essential symbiosis that enriches both; their convergence here will be invaluable to the new reader.

However comprehensive these interests, they continually return to a fixed centre: the "autonomous" and "infinite" Scotland which MacDiarmid

reinvented; Scotland as might-be, built on the foundation of an indestructible link between artist and place. The Scottish Literary Renaissance is a continuous process rather than an event frozen in time; he began it by devising a language, the dense linguistic medium of his early Scots poems, and remained optimistic to the last that a national revival could be nourished. For MacDiarmid, nothing is inherently unpoetical, least of all politics.

His fiction reveals another MacDiarmid, particularly those stories written in the natural rhythms of the Langholm Scots he spoke as a boy. More human in scope and sympathy than the infinitely more ambitious and "disinterested" poetic works, they reveal a further facet of the most multifaceted of men. MacDiarmid, barbed and combative, is not to every taste; that, as he would doubtless have said, is their loss. His reputation can only grow as more of his work becomes readily available; Alan Bold is doing a great service, and not only to Scottish literature.

tried not entirely to reflect his

Front-of-house

Theatre Administration. By Francis Reid.
A & C Black £7.95. 0 7136 2368 3.

Theatre Administration provides a useful introduction for the uninitiated and a comprehensive check list for the more experienced. Different types of theatre organization are outlined so that the administrator's function is clearly defined. The planning and procedures necessary to ensure maximum returns at the box office are listed in detail. They are more complex than might be expected. Although administration is a somewhat prosaic

subject, Francis Reid does not ignore the human factor of the audience and theatre staff. Both have to be nursed and cajoled with tact and gentility. Although computers can provide the information for accounting and ticket sales, they cannot replace the theatre manager and his staff in catering for the needs of the public.

The pressures front-of-house may not be as dramatic as those backstage but they are every bit as demanding. As Reid observes, "A theatre seat is rather like an aircraft seat: the value of the empties disappears as completely on curtain-up as on take-off".

Robin Rook

Pax Romana

The Romans. By Karl Christ. Translated by Christopher Holme.
Chatto and Windus £12.50. 0 7011 26434.

"There has never been a colder pride... than that of these Romans... They thought the world was theirs and, behold, it became so." Christ here quotes Herder's denunciation of the "robbers and murderers" who brought "desolating night" upon the world. If this sounds like wailing idealism (from the sounds of the French Revolution) we may trace its parallel in that famous speech not quoted by Christ, which asserts "they make a solitude and call it peace". It was a Roman who wrote this epigram, expressing more pungently what some other Romans had said before him; Tacitus, one of the ruling class, who lived to be governor of Asia: a servant of the Raj.

Peace is certainly what they called it. It is the *pax Romana* that confronts us on coins and altars and in the countless inscriptions that build up a picture of Roman administration as it controlled the lives of over 80 million people in the first century AD. Roman writers seldom tire of this theme. For the Italian Cicero of the Republic, and for Natanian in Gaul five centuries later, Rome's historic purpose was the establishment of world peace, as a condition permanent and universally understood: what Virgil called *pax imponere morum*, "to set upon peace the mark of custom". Peace for the Romans was not merely an inspiring conception; it was known to require daily exertions and moral struggles in every corner of the Empire. This is why ruthlessness and rapacity fit for the Montezumas still does not negate the Imperium Romanum with the Reich or Shogun-

ate of master races.

Karl Christ's book is full of ambivalences such as these. He calls it an "introduction" to Roman civilization, for readers or travellers who may be "students of disciplines built on Roman foundations". He assumes no knowledge of Roman history, but gives detailed accounts of constitutional or economic matters, for example, with only a minimum of narrative. His purpose is to combine these perspectives in a single vision of *Romanitas*, using Roman sources as fully as he can. The writing is alert and demanding.

Some questions are well explained: why there were so many different types of community, the "colonies", "federated cities", "client kingdoms"; or how different groups such as freedmen or free immigrants were led to identify their interests with the Augustan Establishment. Other questions, unanswerable, are illuminated. Why did the Empire fall? Christ thinks we should ask rather why it lasted so long. About a third of the book deals with Late Antiquity, a mark of how Roman History's scope has changed. These chapters are positive though terrifying. Again, why did the Romans acquire an Empire at all? Christ inclines, as they did, to attribute this to moral rather than economic or strategic realities. Material gain was of course attractive. But the impetus came, Christ believes, from the "fundamentally action-seeking attitude of the Romans", the restlessness of a governing class that sought scope for its *virtus*, its moral energy. Renaissance princes liked the Romans.

There are some trying patches of abstract writing - "radicalization" and "polarization" and "dynamic process of crisis" all on one page (46) and presumably also found in the German

original. These terms do not help Christ's argument, though they do not invalidate it either. He can use specific observation to vivify the abstract, as when the Roman "will to power" is seen to work in the succession of architectural projects in the Rome of the Emperors. These were ever more vast and lofty; Trajan's Forum was 1000 feet long, Hadrian's Mausoleum over 130 feet high. And what was all this *gloria*, the Pompeian grandeur ask? Life only means bathing and drinking and sex: *viam facimus bonae, vna, Venus*.

Christ wrote this book because, unmistakably, he really wanted to think and make others think about questions such as these. It is a scholar's work, although he eschews footnotes. Eight pages of plates are disappointing; standard subjects, poor photographs. There is a wide and up-to-date bibliography.

Elisabeth Henry

Among this week's contributors:

Robin Buss is a lecturer in French at Woolwich College of Further Education.
Paul Harting is head of All Saints CE School, Chorley, Lancs.
Hugh Hebert is a feature writer on the *Guardian*.
John Messenger is Reader in Zoology at Sheffield University.
Neil Philip is the author of *A Fine Angel: A Critical Introduction to the work of Alan Garner* (Collins).
Jessica Saraga teaches at Nonsuch High School, Chesham.
E C Wragg is professor of education at Exeter University.

An Atlas of EEC Affairs

RAY HUDSON, DAVID RHIND and HELEN MOUNSEY

This atlas offers, through maps, tables and text, a clear introduction to the current issues facing the European Economic Community. Wherever possible, information is presented at the regional as well as the national scale. Amongst the wide range of central questions considered are the history, organizational structure and policies of the EEC; the changing population of the EEC; the labour market; economic performance and resources; social conditions; consumption patterns and lifestyles; and the key issues of the 1980s.

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416 30920 B/about £6.95 paperback
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METHUEN

RESOURCES

Altois, Meiosis
Sets of 12, 35mm colour slides and resources book. The slides are plastic mounted in a wallet contained inside the resource book.

Produced by Science Education Resources Pty Ltd, Victoria, Australia. Available in the UK from Philip Harris Biological Ltd, Oldmixon, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS24 9BJ.

A number of sets of slides showing the processes of cell division are currently on the market, so a newcomer, at this stage, needs to do something new and different. This is what these two sets accomplish.

Altois is the normal process by which body cells divide. Usually a set of such slides would be wholly concerned with photomicrographs of the various stages in both plants and animals, but in this set only three slides cover this aspect, two of dividing cells of the onion, *Allium cepa*, and one of cells from a whitefish embryo *Leucichthys* sp. From then on the set takes on a different look. A slide of a boy and his father is used as a stimulus to discuss growth by mitotic cell division. A blood donor is included to raise questions regarding blood cell formation. A specific Australian example is of an Eucalypt tree vole with young shoots growing out, six weeks after it has been cut. Slides of seed packets could be used as an introduction to discuss polyploidy, common in cultivated plants, and so on.

The **Meiosis** set starts by illustrating the process of gamete formation and photomicrographs of the tissue in the human gonads that produce sex cells. The sixth slide, of a moss, is used to raise issues of the alternation of generations in plants and the difference in the occurrence of meiosis during the life cycle of plants and animals. Another provides data on the duration of meiosis - which take from days to weeks. In contrast to a few hours that a mitotic division normally takes. Further slides illustrate crossing over, formation of cells with abnormal chromosome complements - a male gould (a cross between a goat and a bantam, or aoudad sheep). The set ends with a photograph of the "geep" which was thought to be a hybrid between a goat and a sheep but proved to be just another sheep!

The resource books written by Drs J. Kinnear and M. Martin provide a work scheme for each slide. This involves background material and questions forming the basis of an inquiry into the area of discussion. They also contain several multiple choice test questions which are slightly unusual as there are three possible correct answers and the student has to identify the incorrect one.

The material is highly professional, and it's a great change - and pleasure - to see something that deals with the biological significance of the two processes of cell division, rather than just the minutiae of detail.

Harris Genetic Cards (M 90025/0)
Price £14.75
Available from Philip Harris Biological Ltd, Oldmixon, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS24 9BJ.

This kit consists of an instruction sheet, and sets of A4 cards which illustrate inheritance in three organisms: mouse, human and pea. Four sets of each are supplied, with stout, plastic laminated cards that should stand up to reasonable wear. Each card contains a number of illustrations of phenotypes together with information on their genotype, and needs to be cut up into pieces for use. The sheet also contains smaller illustrations representing gametes.

It is intended that the class should work in small groups, and the material is designed to help students work out simple genetic crosses for themselves. The mouse cards, for example, can be used to illustrate a simple monohybrid cross of a brown-furred mouse with a black-furred one. Pea cards can be used similarly to "cross" dwarf and tall pea plants. An easy way to select the two parents - say a pure breeding brown and a black mouse. The cards are placed on the table with the smaller gamete ones placed beneath each mouse. The F₂ generation can then be "bred" by adding other cards, then the F₃ and so on. It is possible to investigate by a similar means dihybrid inheritance, the inheritance of sex and human genetics.

This kit should be particularly useful for classes up to 16 years. First-hand practical work is not easy in introductory lessons to genetics and this provides a useful simulation. It is especially valuable as it brings in human genetics and opens up the possibility of discussing the difficulties of studying inheritance in man. At advanced level the materials could provide a valuable revision lesson and be linked very easily with follow-up practical investigations. Alternatively, the cards could be used as a demonstration using either a flannel board or a metal sheet and attaching velcro or small magnets respectively to the cards.

The Leaf, TB 16
A set of 30 card-mounted slides (M22020/2)
Price £16.20
Also available as a filmstrip (M22022/6), Price £11.00.
The Flower, TB 17
30 card-mounted slides (M22055/9)
Price £18.75
A filmstrip (M22057/3) price £11.00.
Both sets with teaching notes
Available from Philip Harris Biological Ltd, Oldmixon, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS24 9BJ.

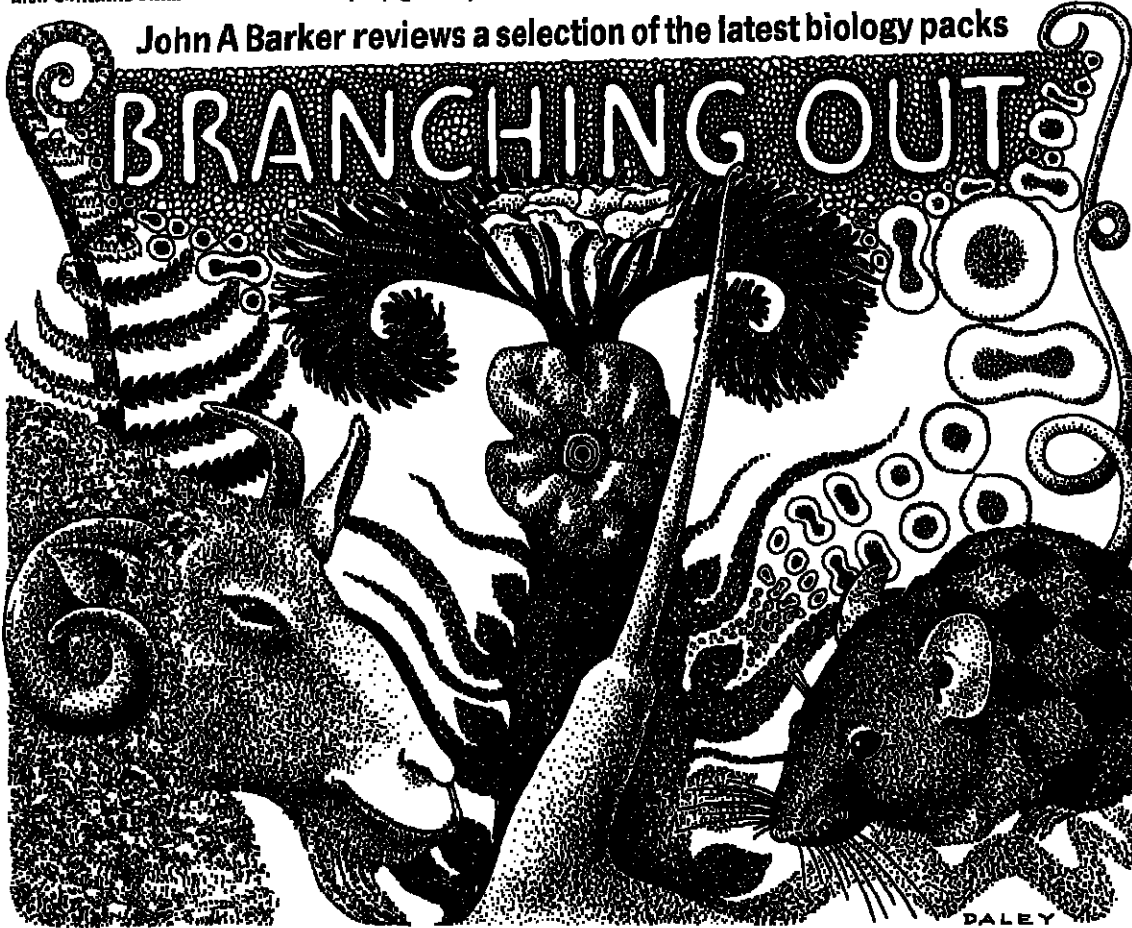
The Leaf starts by examining a slide of a dicotyledonous leaf, using spinach as a type example, and various aspects of its structure follow, such as the mesophyll layer and cell structure. Scanning electron-micrographs are used to good effect, as in an absorbing three-dimensional view of the interior of a citrus plant leaf. Other slides illustrate the basic structure of a monocotyledonous leaf, while a number are devoted to the examination of surface structures - hairs of bracken, nettle and *Dracopis* (with a trapped insect), stomata of spinach, etc. A cystolith, from *Pilea elaeagnifolia*, viewed by polarized light, provides a striking example of a cell inclusion. The nature of the structural adaptations shown by xerophytic leaves are illustrated by marram grass and Christmas cactus. The structure of the leaves of gymnosperms and ferns are also considered.

The first slide in **The Flower** set shows a scanning electron-micrograph of the whole flower of *Alyssum*, providing an introduction to the basic structure of an actinomorphic flower, in contrast with *Trifolium pratense* red clover, which exhibits the characteristics of a zygomorphic flower. Later slides illustrate the nature of a flower bud, the structure of a petal, the anther, with stages of cell division, and the ovule.

The set then explores the process of pollination in flowers, starting with dehiscent anthers, then illustrating some variations in pollen structure, pollination, and pollen tube growth. Final slides in the set show the structure of a grass flower, chromatophylls in a petal and the nature of a nectary.

These sets use modern preparatory techniques, such as embedding the plant material in acrylic resin rather than wax, prior to sectioning. This produces thinner sections, and consequently we can see more detail of the cell structure. The variety of techniques used - scanning electron-micrographs, polarized light, etc. - provides material which gives a new insight into the micro-anatomy of plants. On each slide a small bar of known length gives an easy reference point to relate the size.

The notes are full and indicate the staining processes used. Both sets will be valuable for biology at a number of levels in the secondary school and beyond. It is to be hoped the author will take the series further with study of plant development.



Experiments in Biology.
A filmstrip of 50 full frames with teacher's notes and 50 self-adhesive card mounts (Reference 181)
Price £7.75
Available from Focal Point Audio Visual Ltd, 251 Copnor Road, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 5EE.

This filmstrip illustrates a number of biological investigations that might be carried out in school, but because some frames are upright, it must be converted into slides for class use. The range of investigations includes anaerobic respiration of yeast, analysis of gas for carbon dioxide and oxygen using both a gas burette and a J-tube, the effect of ATP on muscle, food

tests, action of salivary amylase, plasmolysis and a number of other standard plant physiological investigations, making a blood smear and blood grouping, simple microbiological work, *Dracopis* breeding, a nerve muscle preparation and finally two frames on ecology.

The set clearly covers a wide variety of school biology. However, the coverage is very varied, with six slides used for gas analysis, but only two each for ecology and the nerve muscle preparation - quite inadequate to cover these topics. Other slides show sloppy techniques, thus the slide demonstrating respiration of pea seeds uses an inadequate control, and the result of a starch test on a leaf compares the

tested leaf with an untested green leaf. One slide showing *Dracopis* cultures and a bottle of ether tells very little. The standard of photography is also variable.

There are positive values in such a set of slides - they could be used for revision purposes, although in that case it might have been better if most of the labels had been covered up. Alternatively, seen as with the gas analysis, the slides could be shown before the investigation to help the class understand how to carry it out. It is, therefore, a pity that this material has not been better planned before the final shot list was selected. However, it would cost teachers much more to make their own sets.

Sound sense

Nutrition in Action
Pack of 24 workcards, eight stencils from choice of 24 free in pack, £9.50
Heinz Nutrition in Action, The Wellington Press Group, 144 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 0DR.
The Five Senses Project
Northamptonshire County Council Project book £3.50 from The Health Education Department, 39 Billing Road, Northampton.

What is a meal? Inquires Section 3 of the **Heinz Nutrition in Action** pack. And, blow me down, what do you think our three bonny children are eating as their mum stands at the sink cleaning her tin-opener? Yes, beans means... on toast!

Nutrition in Action is a beautifully shiny pack with plenty of ideas for project work for infant and junior school children. Some of these are a bit weird, such as charting the decay of foods brought to school and left to rot, but there is sound sense in all of them. Growing mustard and cress, blind man's buff, (a sort of Kim's Game of tastes), collages of food pictures from magazines and recipes for nourishing snacks are all useful activities well introduced. And, despite the ubiquitous pictures in every illustration,

one must applaud Heinz for stressing the superiority of fresh over tinned food, the importance of breakfast, the need to avoid too much sugar and the price advantage of fresh food.

Such concepts as protein and fibre are quite complicated for children to grasp. Some of the suggestions in the pack, such as keeping a food diary and matching how you feel with what you eat, are praiseworthy attempts at getting children to be more aware of how their bodies work. Lists of useful foods, warnings of the consequences of bad habits and explanations of calorific value are introduced clearly, and the workcards are graded to suit abilities.

Would that **The Five Senses Project** could have found a shiny sponsor. This really excellent piece of work produced jointly by the Northamptonshire Education and Health Authorities suffers from its presentation. A typewritten sheaf of papers in a ring-binder, it crams almost too much information and too many ideas for classroom work together. Yet everything has the ring of work tried and tested in the classroom and, as with all work which has been influenced by the Nutfield Science Project, it is extremely inventive.

Though recommended especially for work in small groups in the middle school, all the sections (Sight, Hear-

ing, Touch, Taste and Smell) contain some ideas which could be introduced even earlier and some with relevance even to the O-level syllabus. For instance, talking about colours and why traffic lights and road signs are as they are, would fit in well with many a junior or infant topic, whilst work on smell detectors could lead to quite advanced biological speculation.

By always bringing abstract information back to the child's own experience of his or her own body or by using the simplest of equipment for experiments, scientific method and information is constantly related to the external world.

It is perhaps this process, of continually bringing abstraction into contact with the concrete, which is more valuable than the teaching about the wonderful ways in which the body works. Using a tin can with the ends removed and a rubber sheet with fine grains of sand or salt on it to simulate the action of the ear or offering cotton wool soaked in oil of cloves to earthworms: such useful ideas are properly linked to necessary cautions about not poking things into our ears and not hurting animals. If only there was the money for better presentation, it would be perfect!

Victoria Neumark

MEDIA



Flying high

Nick Baker on a television series about enterprising young people

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Sparks
BBC 2
Tuesdays 7.5-7.30pm.

What's gratifying about **Sparks** is its refusal to pose as an education or a specifically youth interest programme. Intelligently placed after **Tucker's Luck** (the *Grange Hill* spin-off), it shows what some real life 'Tuckers' bright sparks are, getting up to, not only in terms of making a living, but also in terms of their personal lives as well. Yet nowhere in the programme is

there that persuasive Blue Peter element of "You could do this at home, too..."

Each programme has a different theme. In **The Bass Cats**, three weeks ago, the theme was young enterprise in setting up business ventures. Collette, Tony and Adam set up their own cafe in Liverpool and called it **Desperate Dan**. Cow pie, it goes without saying, is on the menu. We saw them serving, cooking, cleaning and "doing the books". Although the programme has made the arduous process of finding funds, searching for premises, building and decorating all seem quite easy (TV

can make anything look easy), it also did the safe favour of making it look a nice place to visit.

From Liverpool we were taken in Glasgow - no trendy London bias here - to meet the proprietors of **Shockmonkey**, a design and fashion outlet started by college students on a market stall and now knocking on *Vogue's* door. From Glasgow the programme took us down south to meet the 18-year-old proprietor of **Interceptor** Micros, a firm which produces 4000 software games tapes a day and has a firm grip on the top end of the computer game "hit parade".

For information booklet send a large stamp (with 2p stamp) to "Sparks", BBC-TV, London W12 8QT.

One man's enthusiasm

Enthusiasts
Channel 4, Wednesday 5.30-6.00 pm.

One man's enthusiasm is another man's big yawn, I could not help reflecting, comparing the first two programmes in Channel 4's series, **Enthusiasts**. Where I had sat indifferent in front of the blandishments of Martin Burrows' extensive toy collection of treasures, I was totally won over by Max Nicholson's passion for nature in the cities, and his Ecological Parks Trust. Perhaps this is because the one is such a private enthusiast and the other so missionary in his desire to redress the balance between man the taker and man the care-taker of nature.

Recalling the most exciting Christmas present he'd ever had, Martin Burrows gave us the old French playlet *The Corsican Brothers*, a typical naughty French tale of honour betrayed and avenged with the obligatory ghost and duel. It was lovely to see the proud narrator's face light up as he played with his "penny plain, tuppence coloured" stage but difficult to share

the same flame of interest. Toy theatres evidently developed as a sort of early fanzine, sheets of cut-out figures being sold after any particularly popular theatre production. They reached their apogee in Victorian times, when they frequently burned down in the excess of their youthful owners' glees at using the paraffin spotlights. Croquet had one and attributed to it his catching the "red and gold disease of the theatre, from which I have never recovered".

The William Curtis Ecological Park in Bermondsey has no less compelling a hold on its visitors. In an old lorry park close by the Tower of London a miniature vision of the countryside was created in five weeks in 1977 at a cost of £2,000. Since then it has been used by thousands and thousands of school children as nature on their doorstep, a green world that is not a bewildering day out but a reality down the road. Most of the plants, even surprisingly rare ones, have established themselves there as "free riders" in an area without pesticides and weedkillers. Moorhens have chosen the spot to nest. Frogs (now endangered in Eng-

land) have cheerfully multiplied. With the help of on-site experts children have learnt how to catch and - more importantly - how to put back, wild fauna.

For such a keen ecologist, Max Nicholson is modest in his aims. He envisages many such places in the city, parks prepared to exist only for a few years on a nomadic basis in the 14,000 acres of vacant land in London alone. At Lavender Ponds in Rotherhithe and in North Dulwich Wood something more ambitious is being attempted, however. Involving local volunteers, water meadows and forests are being conjured back into existence. "The forest," said Mr Nicholson, gesturing around the wet scrubby trees, "is helping us. The forest is full of life. And Londoners are forest people".

As we trudge through the jungle of concrete and greed, the overuse of resources and the throwaway society to which Max Nicholson also refers, we must be thankful that there are people of such undoubted enthusiasm to restore to us our heritage as forest people.

Victoria Neumark

Radio pictures

RADIO
Faith, Hope and Clarity
Radio 4
Wednesday, April 4.

"Now this was a little school where the children sat in raised tiers of seats which were called galleries. The only flat floor space in the room was the little space round the teacher's desk and when Ann Driver started the broadcast the little children sat still in the galleries and before their wondering eyes their headmaster danced in the little floor space to the instructions and music of Ann Driver."

This anecdote about an unusual approach to Music Movement illustrated in a radio programme last

week the difficulties in communication with teachers that the early school broadcasters sometimes encountered. It was one of several new or sparsely aired items from School Radio's history in *Faith, Hope and Clarity*, a documentary to mark 60 years of School Radio.

This well-researched, well-organized programme brought the dominating, tireless personality of Mary Somerville, the "mother" of School Radio, into sharp focus with George Dixon's description of her lifting up the hem of her skirt and giving herself an insulin injection without stopping talking. It graphically illustrated teachers' fears, in the early days, of being undermined or even ousted by radio, with an excerpt from the *Daily Herald* of 1926:

"What becomes of the efforts of educationists to reduce the size of classes, when 50 strong raise cries of indignation, if a school loudspeaker with one teacher in control can hold the attention of an audience of one hundred?"

The programme gave a vivid account of School Radio in wartime and during the days of "direct teaching", after the war, by such colourful personalities as Harry Armstrong and William Appleby. It brought us through the sixties and seventies, when school broadcasting was revolutionized by the coming of the tape recorder, to finish with a full picture of present developments.

For more information on the programme, write to Frances Hill, BBC Radio 4, 100 Victoria Road, London W12 8QT.

Frances Hill

briefings
radio & tv

Open University

TWELFTH NIGHT
(Sunday 12.40, BBC2)

"Twelfth Night" has an ageless comic appeal. In this workshop, Shakespearean actors rehearse and then perform one of the play's funniest scenes.

THE MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION
(Wednesday 23.20, VHF3)

The course "Education for Adults" continues with an investigation of the government's response to the suffering of the unemployed.

Continuing education and general interest

ALL OUR WORKING LIVES

(Friday April 13, 21.25 BBC2)
A history of Britain at work in the twentieth century begins with 'The Shipbuilders'.

A PASSAGE TO BRITAIN
(Wednesday 18.00, C4)

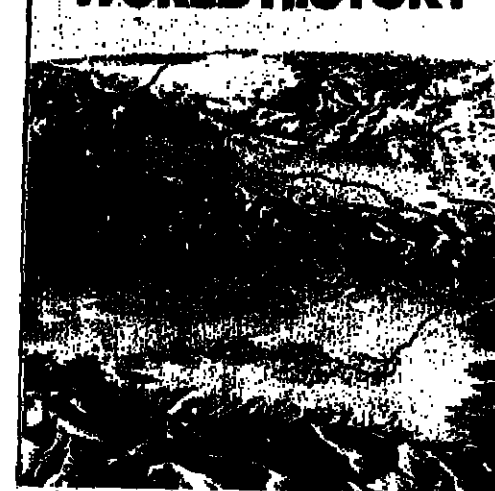
A 12-part series looking at the history of immigration to Britain and the legacy of the British Empire.

PATMOS, ISLE OF THE APOCALYPSE
(Friday 19.00, C4)

For the first time the monks of Patmos allow total freedom to a film unit to record the ceremonies of Easter week on the holy island.

SHAKESPEARE IN PERSPECTIVE
(Friday 19.00, BBC2)

Sir John Hackett, distinguished soldier, author and broadcaster, gives his personal view of "Coriolanus".

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MILL MUSEUM



Worsbrough Mill Museum
Worsbrough Country Park, Worsbrough, Barnsley, South Yorkshire
(tel 0226-283961).
Open Wed-Sun 10.00-6.00 or dusk if earlier.

The millers themselves, who until the 19th-century took payment for their services by toll – a 16th part of the grain brought to the mill – are unknown before 1757. From then the names of 13 millers – one of them a woman – are recorded. Their initials are carved into

First there's the mill-pond, supplying water for the water-wheel, originally filled through a "head race"

by Michael Henderson

Many RE teachers are rightly cautious about using teaching materials produced by committed agencies and organizations, such as booklets, leaflets and films are rarely objective and frequently directly evangelical.

many resources available from the Salvation Army Schools' Information Service but, among the material on offer, there is much that will provoke a fascinated response, not least the actual "Articles of War", which must be signed by every Salvationist, with their detailed (and demanding) declarations of total abstinence and the avoidance of unclean conversation. In fact, the Salvation Army is a body well worth studying, not least for its readiness to allow women a prominent role in its teaching and organization. But also

by Victoria Neumark

I am afraid this tends to be the flaw in many a crusade. The Animal Aiders overkill the issue and leave the audience reeling not with horror but with the boredom which results from too much ghastly information. It would have been better to concentrate on just one or two of the manifestations of man's cruelty to the beasts and more fully indicate the scope of the rest.

Call me a "speciesist" if you will, but I believe it is only by firmly identifying ourselves as human beings and seeing what is truly best for us that we can act properly to the animals and try to shape a world in which each creature has, maybe not rights, but their own place without violation.

by John A Barker

This is a very useful set of slides. As a resource it would be valuable in a number of contexts in science, geography, and environmental studies. The photography overall is good and the significant points are generally highlighted, although at least one—slide 21 of the Savorius Rotator water pump—pretty well defies interpretation. Although the script does not contain any hard data, there is a Renewable Energy Resources List, from which much more could be obtained. If this will be reprinted because it stands it will not always provide sufficient information regarding the source of the materials.

[illegible]

School Visits
A 16 page feature giving details of day trips to various museums, historical buildings and places of interest as well as covering Venture Weeks and a 'Do-it-yourself Europe' survival course plus tips on how to make your school visit enjoyable for both pupils and teachers. First published in TES in February 1983. Price £1.00.

Information Technology
In March, the THES published its second feature on IT. This includes articles on digital drawing-boards, geographical data sifting and other valuable information. First published in THES in March 1984. Price 25p.

Please send me the following reprints:

Amount enclosed: £

Please make cheques payable to Times Newspapers Limited and send this coupon to Frances Goddard, The Times Supplements, Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

Modern Language Teaching

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School Visits

YTS

Leverhulme Report

BTECH Education

Review of 1983

Peer Review (1)

Peer Review (3i)

Information Technology

Quantity

[illegible]



Going for mixed ability

The collage consists of four vintage movie posters. The top poster, titled "MOVING INTO MAPS", features a large, dark, stylized mountain range with a complex, winding maze pattern overlaid on it. Below the mountain, there is a small, circular inset showing a globe. The middle-left poster, titled "THE MONUMENTS MEN", shows a large, circular globe with a crosshair pattern. Below the globe, there is a large, dark, stylized skull. The middle-right poster, also titled "THE MONUMENTS MEN", shows a large, circular globe with a crosshair pattern. Below the globe, there is a large, dark, stylized skull. The bottom poster, titled "THE MONUMENTS MEN", shows a large, circular globe with a crosshair pattern. Below the globe, there is a large, dark, stylized skull.

EXTRA

The dimension of time

of woodland, marsh, moorland their reclamation and drainage, and so on. Climate and history would be related and the current work of the Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia, together with Professor H. H. Lamb's work, show the potentialities of historical meteorology. Fields, farms and boundaries would be a story reaching from prehistoric times to the enclosures and prairie farming. Landscapes of belief would examine the impact of early peoples in terms of standing stones, earthworks, camps, barrows, etc. through to other religious influences on landscape such as monastic colonization, parish organization and parish churches. What are the patterns they create?

The study of place names, the evolution of settlement patterns and the growth of cities, with planning, would form another element. The much neglected historic map, together with work on early cartography and navigation, might be useful, especially related to art.

"The map," wrote Mikhaylov, "is a social document. It fixes time with its symbolism, alternation of colours, and

peculiarity of design. The lines on the map are the handwriting of history."

Routes, transport and the growth of the industrial landscape with case studies of places like Coalbrookdale and the Potteries should be studied with the field evidence of industrial archaeology. It should be integrated with the rise of the industry and related to contemporary changes in our technological environment.

Frontier movements, both in Britain and Europe but more particularly in North America, Australia and the Soviet Union would fit into overseas expansion and exploration. The rise of the great powers and the territorial growth or decline of regions and states would involve much atlas work, fast disappearing from schools, and would be related to the geography of world affairs.

The traditional role of geographers as the interpreters of world geopolitics is now reviving. So does the elementary knowledge of where the action is taking place.

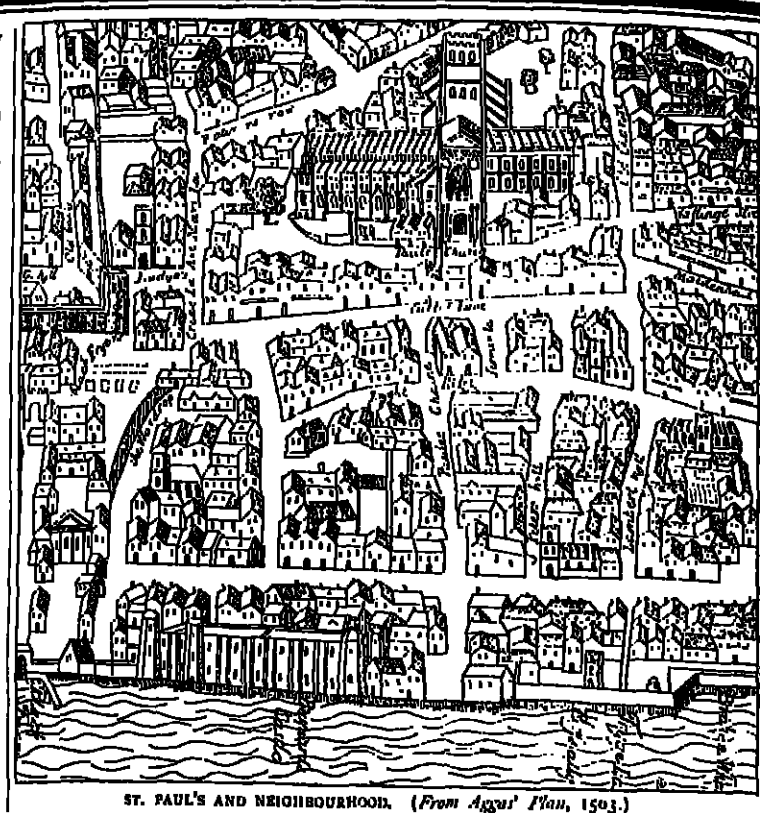
How did people perceive their landscape? Diaries, letters, poets and regional writers can add to the perception of the past for which we search. Geographers, especially in schools, could do much more to make their subject viable and interesting by reference to literature and art, recently

called "the soul of geography" by Professor Worford Watson.

These are only a few ideas for the historical geography syllabus which offers more than just historical geography. It is rooted in the great traditions of our subject but looks to the present and future as well as the past because it is interlinked.

The landscape provides a unity for it is the catalyst we need, but have forgotten. It might even revive observational geography. Certainly it will encourage team work and cooperation in schools for it brings together not only history and geography but art, literature, sociology, archaeology, environmental studies and science. It has, too, an all-round methodology incorporating all the educational skills we hope to encourage. It has been written that: "The present day geography of any settled area embodies residual features of many past geographies as it inherits the momentum of forces generated in the past. An area of land, like an individual, is a fully explicable except in terms of its history... geography is in fact inseparable from the history which produced it."

When can we give full credit to the dimension of time as well as place in our school geography syllabuses?



ST. PAUL'S AND NEIGHBOURHOOD. (From Agost Plan, 1593.)

Fostering delusions?

by Andy Schofield

short regional surveys. Thus the section on Soviet agriculture also includes short regional surveys of 24 separate agricultural types, ranging from reindeer rearing in the tundra to grain, rice and livestock in the Far East.

In the geography of a planned economy it makes sense to emphasise the role of the state as a principal determinant of the shape and structure of the human response to the environment. But as Klirushchev discovered in the virgin lands of Kazakhstan in the 1950s, physical geography imposes its own constraints, whatever the policy of the Party may be. This is why it is also useful to have Professor Mellor's enlightening study of the *Soviet Union and its Geographical Problems*, in which he shows how important it is to assess Soviet achievements and failures in the context of the environment.

He concludes with a chapter on the Soviet Union since 1945. Many will draw encouragement from his suggestion that it "is perhaps not far from the truth to suggest that high technology is the most potent force driving the world together, for no nation can advance its technology sufficiently if encapsulated in itself."

Philip Sauvain

In the last geography "Extra" (TES, December 2) Trevor Higginbottom and Malcolm Renwick wrote about the "cycle of educational deprivation" in their article "Springboards for change". The authors cited the Schools Council Geography for the Young Harrop's Geography Project as a way of breaking the cycle of deprivation.

Although that article included some highly laudable comments on the teaching of the less able and a smattering of current educational jargon, it was symptomatic of a problem in geography, namely that what actually happens in the classroom can be hidden behind a veneer of progressive statements.

The space given to the promotion of GYSL would have been put to better use if it had concentrated on the current debate about the position of GYSL with regard to values and attitudes in the classroom. More specifically, the article could have dealt with some of the questions raised about GYSL concerning its ideology, the Third World and multi-cultural education.

One is invariably given the impression that the GYSL project is a panacea. On the question of ideology, the people involved with GYSL claim to have undergone a process of self-evaluation. A major contribution to the up-dating of GYSL materials is the series of books "Geography and Change", published by Nelson between 1981 and 1983. This series states that it "explores the contribution that geography can make to development education".

An analysis of how successful a contribution this series can make would not be appropriate here. The "Teacher's Guide" for the series deals with controversial issues in some depth and provides guidelines for ways in which teaching materials can be designed. The key question, however, is: have the people involved with GYSL actually examined their own ideological position, or have they simply produced a new series of books which they hope will quell the current tide of unease, without any real shift in stance?

One cannot alter an ideological position simply by the inclusion of a progressive message. If GYSL really believes this progressive message, then it could directly influence classroom practice by making sure that Third World issues were not being taught in a way that promotes the vested interest of the "developed world". They could do this by critical attention to syllabuses designed to teach Third World issues as the Further Curriculum Unit within GYSL itself.

A damning criticism of the ideological stance of GYSL is that it has, this year, accepted a syllabus for its Further Curriculum Unit which contains not one single reference to a historical perspective on development issues.

This syllabus proposed an introduction to development based on Rostow's linear model of 1960. It concentrated almost exclusively on the symptoms of poverty, resulting in the virtual exclusion of an analysis of the causes. On this basis alone, surely it should have set alarm bells ringing. But no, it was accepted as a model for classroom teaching, without reference being made to the narrow ideological viewpoint that such a syllabus represents.

The syllabus relies heavily on the implicit assumption that the teacher will put across ideas to counter the quite obvious bias. This is not an acceptable position, for the GYSL project is claiming that it has made explicit the contribution that geography can make to development education. There is a direct link between the teaching of the sorts of views that such a syllabus represents and pupils picking up ideas about the superiority of a white, "developed" culture - a situation which does damage to the aim of education in a multicultural society.

GYSL has concentrated its efforts into producing high-powered thoughts on values and development, yet where it could directly influence classroom practice it has abdicated its responsibility.

A lot of recently published geographical material emphasizes the importance of dealing with values and attitudes in the classroom, but how much of this is just lip-service? GYSL was designed to promote and support local initiatives. It should, however, also be promoting an honest examination of the ideological system of which it is a product.

This is necessary as a guideline for teachers using its materials or writing their own. An article by two of GYSL's leading figures provided an ideal opportunity for this examination. The danger of an article like "Springboards for change" is that teachers may feel safe using GYSL and the new Harrop's materials without looking beneath the glossy veneer of jargon and progressive statements.

Classroom teachers may be deluding themselves by thinking that they are providing a forum for the teaching of unbiased values and attitudes when in fact they are not. "Springboards for change" will foster this delusion rather than expose it. That has serious implications for the quality of education that pupils will receive.

Andy Schofield, geography department, Helenswood School, Hastings.

EXTRA

"I imagine Russia as a fairly dismal place"

Peter Wickert on stereotyped images in geography

themes were expressed. These can be summarized as follows:

US view of Soviet Union (ninth to eleventh grade)

Place	People
Major threat	Ugly
Cold	Fat with fur coats
Not a high standard of living	Unhappy
Warlike	Unemotional
Control the world	Sturdy
No freedom	Hardworking
Military rule	Peasants
	Unfriendly
	Commies

US view of Britain

Place	People
Fog and rain	Civilized
History	Cultural
Literature	Classy
Green vegetation	Well-spoken
Narrow roads	Dry sense of humour
Mostly farmland	Peaceful
Low crime rate	US (third year)

British view of Soviet Union

Place	People
Sunny, hot	Friendly
Wealthy	Loud-mouthed
No snow or rain	Unhealthy
Dirty	Grey-haired
Litter	Sporty
Slums	Inventive
Drugs	
High crime rate	
Hopeless	

British view of Soviet Union

Place	People
Cold/snow	Communists
Desolate	Black clothing
No colour	Humourless
Wasteland	Bearded
Military rule	Cloomy/unhappy
Powerful	Ignorant
Espionage	Suppressed
Nuclear war	Friendly

Soviet view of US (seventh form)

Place	People
Oppression of blacks	Casual dress
Hot climate	Hot-tempered
Profiteering	Lazy
Arms race	Cheerful
Gangsters	Money minded
Highways and traffic jams	Generation gap
Concrete jungle	
Dirty	
Ugly	

Soviet view of Britain

Place	People
Small grey towns	Polite
Coastal settlements	Neatly dressed
Narrow streets	Use a walking stick
Advertisements	Sense of humour
Gloomy	Tall
High cost of living	Fair-haired
Strong history	Clerks
Occupation of Ulster	

Many topics in geography are by their nature and subject matter emotive. Can a teacher discuss social criteria without coming down on one side or the other? Peter in *Radical Geography* chides liberal social geographers for their disregard of economic, class-based realities in examining both poverty and crime. Can a teacher be truly disinterested when he or she may also have stereotyped or false images of a country?

Teachers of geography often find themselves attempting to impart knowledge which to the child is relatively intangible. The child may have heard of New York, he may also be aware of the urban problems of the city; however his attitude towards New York may influence the cognitive processes in gaining a true picture of the city. It must also be considered that teachers should be aware of their own selective processes and spatial limitations which may make the stereotypes more rigid.

Recently geographers have devoted considerable time highlighting the extent of racism in many of our familiar teaching resources. The debate has been broadened by those who argue for a multi-ethnic basis to the school curriculum. It is widely recognized that curriculum and classroom resources have played a major part in the formation of racial stereotypes and negative images of other countries.

Whatever the source, the evidence I collected exposed such stereotypes



Civilized, classy, tall, a sense of humour? Or as others see us. (Kamda the Times)

and may be used as a starting point to question their validity and origin and perhaps generate a more positively based counter-current.

In 1980 Dave Hicks pointed out aspects of bias in the older school textbooks which led to false images. For example, Aborigines are people who have "...only rudimentary notions of government and religion. Infanticide is practised and the aged are butchers. Some are cannibals. They are prone to treachery and massacre, believing in perplexing witchcraft ... and are content to sleep in hollow caves in the sand. On the other hand they do sew..."

In a similar vein, Reina an eleventh grade New Yorker, also felt little compassion for the Soviet Union or its

people: "I see a fat ugly guy in a fur coat, an ugly mug on his face... I see in a parade a bunch of kids without God swearing loyalty to communism like a bunch of fools". Ronny, another eleventh grader, wrote: "I should hate a red commie, but I know that any Soviet is only a person within a boundary. I feel great distress that we will probably go to war and enjoy it simply because of propaganda on American and Soviet governments' part."

In reaction to the logical positivism and quantification excesses of the 1970s there is room for research into "private geographies" and their formulating factors. Do girls see different images to boys? Do these images change over time? To what extent are



Hester Street on New York's Lower East Side

images directly related to cultural lifestyle and personal history? How much influence does personality have on images contained within the child? Ultimately, what considerations must a schoolteacher make regarding the consequences of these questions? Perhaps Angela, a New York child, has part of the answer: "With regard to the Soviet Union, through all my schooling, no one I know has ever said anything good about the country".

Peter J. Wickert is head of geography of Archbishop Tenison's School, Croydon, and a member of the Geographical Association Secondary Education Section Committee.

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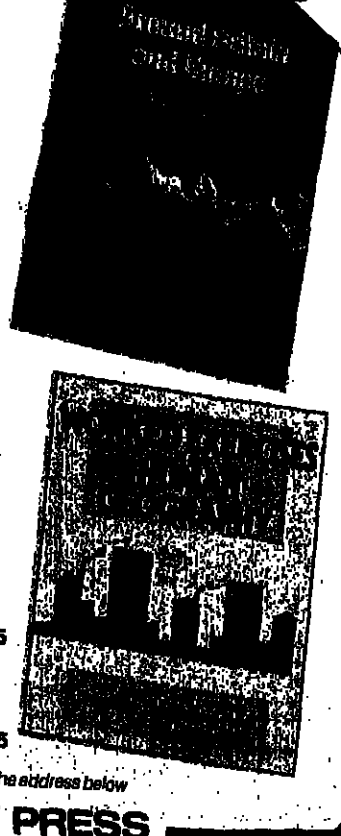
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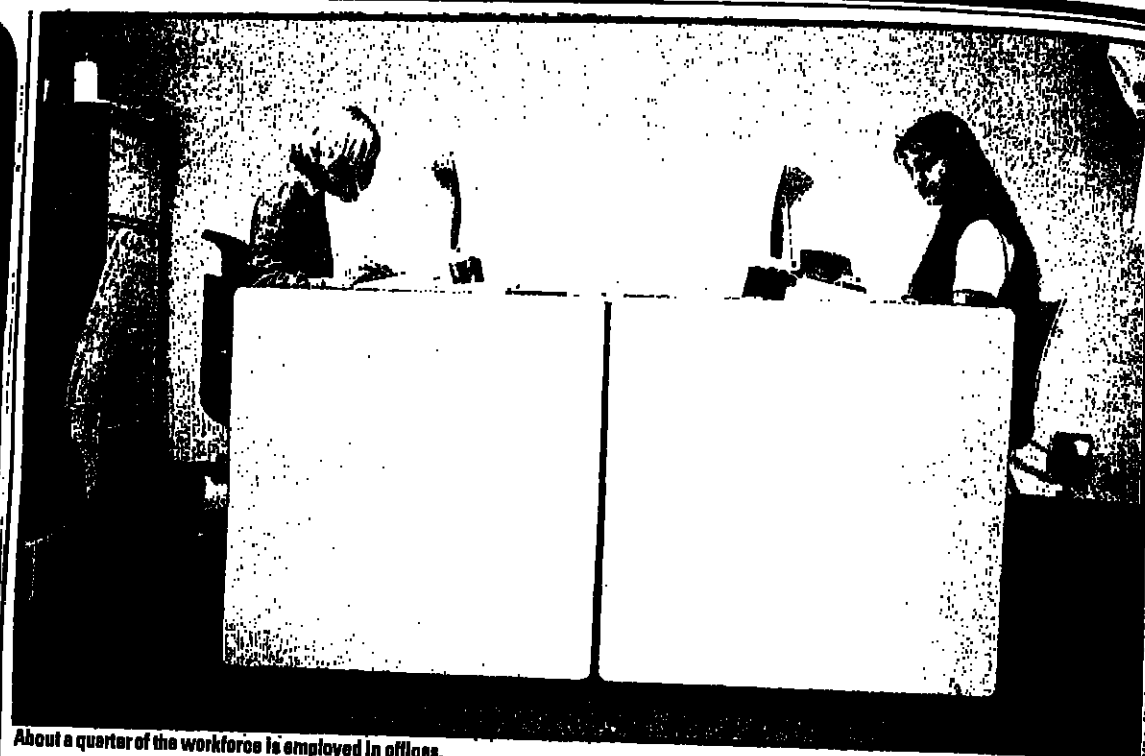
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About a quarter of the workforce is employed in offices.

Geography and the world of work

by John Bale

A friend of mine once recalled her school geography as being "a dirty subject - all coal mines and factories". The satanic mills image of economic geography dies particularly hard. In many present day examination syllabuses heavy industry still looms large, and the world sometimes appears to be inhabited solely by workers in iron and steel, coal mining, cement manufacture and the like.

The spatial model of Alfred Weber, committed to paper in 1909, continues to dominate many A level syllabuses and is all too often studied in an uncritical way. The Weber model, which in its classical form focuses on the no-longer realistic assumption that transport costs are the industrial location factor, is paralleled in the study of agriculture by the land use model of the nineteenth century German farmer, Johann Heinrich von Thünen. Isodapanes and concentric rings appear to rule OK.

This is not to say that there is no room at all for the traditional geographical study of the industrial activities and locational principles upon which the foundations of our present world of work were built. But a number of indicators do suggest that school geography is moving towards a more realistic treatment of modern industry. For example, considerable advances have been made in exploring not only the beneficial impact of industry but the negative spillovers as well.

Among the first publications to emerge from the Geography 16-19 Project (based at the University of London Institute of Education) is an excellent module on *Energy and the Environment*, in which teachers and students explore the causes for concern over the impact of North Sea oil on the Shetlands and coal extraction in the Vale of Belvoir. A number of modern textbooks have approached the world of work in an imaginative and stimulating way and *Industrial Location* by Day, Meyer and Day (1983) must win first prize in the 1983 Cover of the Year awards.

The introduction of role-playing and simulation methods offers motivational alternatives to the coloured pencils and sketchmaps of yesterday. In the last 12 months I have seen pupils imaginatively and critically analyse the content of advertisements designed to attract industry to a number of places, all, it seems, offering equally attractive incentives. I have seen teachers using tape-recorded interviews with industrialists, aiming to identify the critical geographical parameters in the growth of small industrial firms; I have accompanied the inner London sixth-formers who, at their annual South Wales summer school, have been involved in making their own video films, produced in the field to promote underdeveloped, mining communities - a splendid ex-

ample of productive fieldwork and applied behavioural geography. I have also been looking at the inexorable emergence of computer software in the area of industrial geography. Despite these undeniable advances, a weak relationship continues to exist between the subject content and the actual post-school world which many of our students will experience. For example, there is little recognition that modern industrial landscapes are made up of offices rather than mills. About a quarter of the workforce is employed in offices, yet many students leave school with clearer insights into the location factors influencing Indian's Wall than Centrepoint.

Likewise, the geography of female employment is almost totally absent. Economic geography is presented as a man's world, despite the fact that in many countries it has been women's role to change the face of the earth and that in modern Britain non-unionized pools of female labour frequently act as critical location factors for footloose firms. Modern manufacturing is frequently characterized by hi-tech and microchips, yet many of our industrial geography courses give more attention to the first industrial revolution than to that going on now.

More significantly, perhaps, our geography courses sometimes give the impression that the unemployment figure for school leavers still hovers around the 1.5 per cent mark of the halcyon sixties. The geography of unemployment is a subject of great relevance, yet guidelines on how to handle it in the geography lesson are almost non-existent.

The multinational corporations are another taboo subject, despite the remote-control which they exert over our lives. The fact that many light industries can operate profitably without extremely wide, often international, geographical margins to profitability is only slowly gaining recognition in the school geography curriculum.

Although economic geography has not featured as prominently in the recent writings of radical observers of geographical education as their Indian, Asia and Latin America, there is evidence of an increasing awareness of the gap between economic geography as taught in many schools and that of the world which our pupils will inherit in the mid 1980s.

One sign of attempts to narrow that gap has been the decision of the Geographical Association to establish a Geography and Industry Working Party under the stewardship of Graham Corney of Oxford University's Department of Educational Studies. Mr Corney has already been talking about the way geography can contribute to an improved awareness of the world of work (or non-work) as it is

currently experienced.

One outcome of the working party's activities is a book which includes exemplar teaching material contributed by secondary school geography teachers. Another outcome is the proposal for a Geographical Association Industry Project, which Mr Corney writes about on the opposite page of this "Extra".

A second agency likely to become involved in changing the way we teach about industry is the emergent Association for Curriculum Development in Geography. Pioneered by the in-house David Gill, the association promises future special editions of its journal, *Contemporary Issues in Geography and Education* on "The global economy; trade, and the multinationals", and "Work and the economy".

The association is likely to spearhead approaches and perspectives hitherto relatively ignored in our treatment of the geography of work. A more structuralist viewpoint is likely to be adopted - a view which starts from the political and economic milieu within which industry operates, rather than from the physical base of coal and millstone grit which characterized the start of so many traditional courses on industry. John Huckle's article, in a recent issue of the GA's *Teaching Geography*, is exemplary. In this he suggests that through a radicalized economic geography alienated school leavers "can be given a greater awareness of what causes their frustration and alienation and can be shown that such phenomena as unemployment are not inevitable".

Such an approach will require an injection of political education into the geography curriculum, which will in turn require a sincere and generous in-service training commitment by local authorities for the next decade.

Finally, the nature of economic geography taught in schools could be profoundly affected by the Manpower Services Commission's Technical and Vocational Education Initiative. What can geographers contribute to the new vocationalism in schools? While the educational left is seeking a growing awareness of alternative and radical perspectives on the world of work, the political right looks for an even greater correspondence than already exists between the worlds of school and industry.

"On your bike" carries a number of geographical and spatial connotations - mobility, migration, spatial interaction. For example, Teachers of economic geography in the mid-eighties may be concerned less with enhancing children's knowledge of the world of work than with asking themselves what kind of knowledge needs to be enhanced.

John Bale, is lecturer in geographical education, University of Keele.

EXTRA

Industrial perspectives

by Graham Corney

What do you teach about industry?
How do you go about it?
Are you satisfied with what you do?
How relevant is it to the real world outside the classroom?

In recent years, much discussion has taken place about the relevance of the conventional school curriculum as a preparation for adult life. The argument is familiar: the curriculum at present emphasizes a restricted view of education, in which understanding knowledge for its intrinsic value and developing competence in a narrow range of skills are the over-riding aims.

What is needed is a more broadly based curriculum which promotes more relevant knowledge and ideas, and a wider range of useful skills and competence. In this way, a closer relationship would exist between schools and the community, education and industry.

There are inherent implications for all aspects of the education process - not only the content of lessons (understanding ideas, developing skills and attitudes) but also teaching strategies and assessment techniques. However, an area of particular concern is that of economic understanding, or what is increasingly called economic literacy.

Detailed interpretations of this concept vary, but a general definition can be taken from Curriculum 11-16: *Working Papers by HM Inspectorate (DES 1977)*: "... the possession of certain factual knowledge about the national economy, certain specific skills which enable a citizen and a worker to operate within it, and certain concepts which enable us to form balanced and informed judgments about economic matters".

What, then, is the geography teacher's contribution in this area? A first impression might suggest that it is a satisfactory one. Geography courses always include sections on economic geography, especially "industry"; a recent survey in secondary schools by the Schools Council Industry Project showed that when pupils were asked to name the subjects in which teaching about industry took place, geography figured very highly. (I Jamieson, and M Lightfoot, *Schools and Industry*, 1982 p222).

However, if we look back at the questions posed earlier, and interpret them in the light of media coverage of economic matters, the answers might appear less satisfactory and changes need to be made. Such changes can be viewed through the perspective of geography courses, and through that of the contribution of geography teachers to the curriculum overall.

Within existing geography courses, four important changes can be made in the content and emphasis of what is taught:

- 1 A greater use of the school's local community. Pupils and teachers pass factories, offices, shops and other commercial premises in travelling to and from school. The parents of many pupils are employed in local organizations. Are we using local resources as effectively as we might in our teaching about industry?

- 2 One school in Barnsley uses a local coal mine, textile works, insurance broker's office, and motor discount centre to illustrate the theme "Change in Work" in its Geography for the Young School Leaver course. In this four-week unit, pupils gain first-hand knowledge, visit and experience different forms of employment, and work with adults other than teachers - works managers and union representatives.
- 3 A wider, more realistic definition of industry. The importance of coal-mining, shipbuilding, textile manufacture to the economy has changed drastically over the last 30 years. Does our teaching about industry reflect that? Do we include studies of, for example, high technology industries, banking, and commercial activities? Do we consider what industry means to the employer, the shift worker, the union representative, the local authority planner?

- 4 Three resources which illustrate this change are: Emery's article "Silicon Strip" in *Geo* (Series 6, issue 4 pp12-13); Daniel's book *Service Industries: growth and location* (CUP 1982); units in the summer term's BBC series *Radio Geography* (16-19: A).

Level.

3 A greater concern with social, economic and political policies and their impact. Models of industrial location and change are of value. But do we take account of how decisions about expansion, contraction, new locations are made at the levels of the individual premises, the company, the national economy? Of the social, economic and political context in which these decisions are made? Of the effect of these decisions on the community?

Case Study of Corby, trial materials produced by the Schools Council Geography 16-19 Project, reflects this trend.

4 A shift to a wider and more balanced view of the role of industry in society. Do we, for example, consider issues such as the contribution of industry to wealth-creation and the quality of life in the community, as well as issues such as pollution and unemployment? Do we consider the nature of industry in the perspective of a democratic society?

Studies undertaken by academic geographers (for example Ian Hamilton's paper "The Geographic Study of Industry: A Review" in *Geography, Schools and Industry* forthcoming from the Geographical Association) and some of the units produced by the Economics Education 14-16 Project have potential for development by geography teachers.

In making these changes within geography courses, we are also moving in the direction of the second perspective noted above - change in the contribution of geography teachers to the curriculum overall. As we clarify our potential contribution in the area of economic literacy, we are in a better position to contribute to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary initiatives.

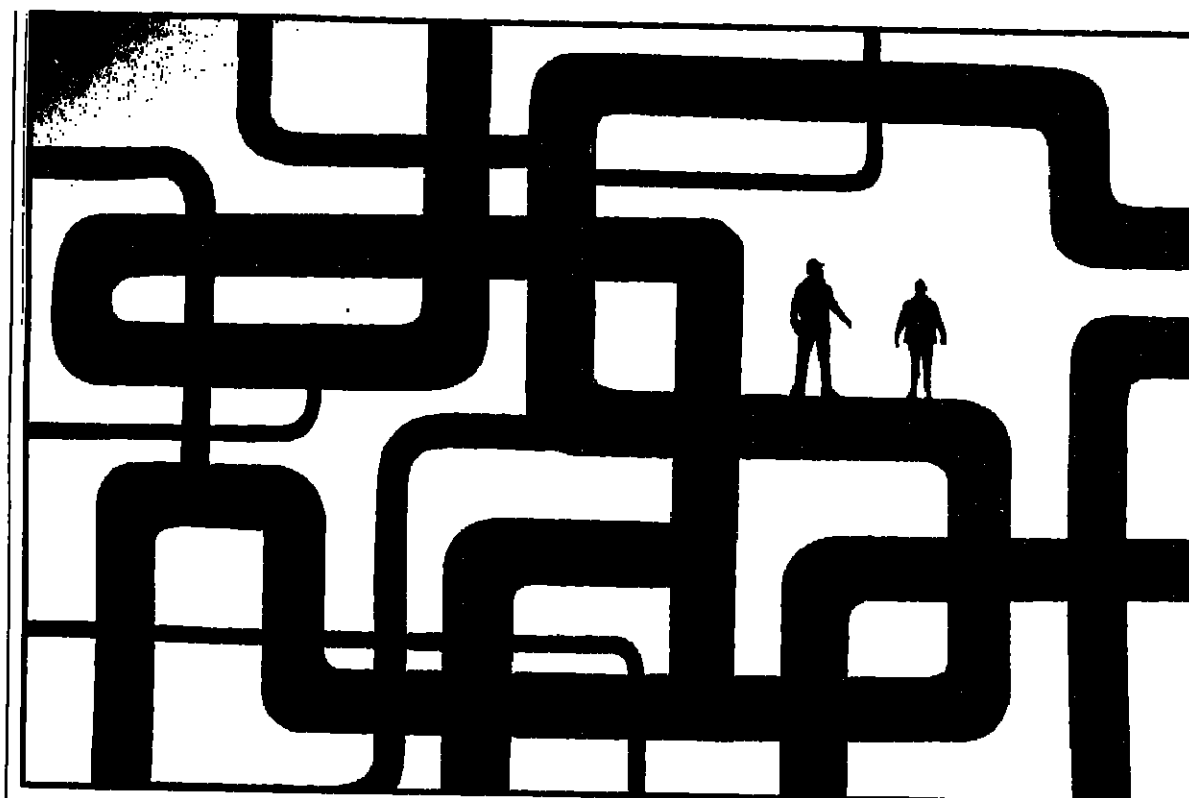
Such initiatives will increase because of their educational value and through the influence of society on the school curriculum. Geography teachers are familiar with integrated approaches in the 8-13 age range. Such approaches are increasing in the 14-19 age range through City and Guilds foundation courses, the general component of Training and Vocational Education Initiative courses, and core studies relating to "Learning for Life".

In the long term, changes in this perspective will be of greater significance. Unless geography teachers are able to contribute positively to new curriculum developments such as this, they may only be left with narrow, specialist courses for those pupils wishing to study the subject in higher education.

Geographical Association, keen to contribute to schools-industry initiatives, set up a working party in 1982 to prepare proposals for a national project. The Geography, Schools and Industry Project will be launched at the annual conference on April 18. The project will operate in the form of a partnership between local groups, based in a number of selected i.e.a.'s, and a central group, based at the University of Oxford Department of Educational Studies. Each group will comprise geography teachers, educationalists and representatives of industry and commerce.

The project is school-focused: geography teachers, in the local groups with industrialists, will be encouraged to promote schools-industry developments in the context of their own community and existing courses; they will monitor the process, and disseminate guidelines and case study materials. The central group will support and evaluate local developments, will inject ideas, guidelines and experiences from other agencies, such as the Schools Council Industry Project, the Economics Education 14-16 project, and geographers in higher education, and will disseminate information, guidelines and exemplar materials nationally.

The Geographical Association is taking a major step in promoting a curriculum development exercise of this size. Fundamental to the spread and implementation of ideas into the classroom will be the Association's journals, publications, branches and working groups. The most crucial element of the whole process is, however, the active participation of Association members, and geography



teachers in general: real curriculum change can only be achieved through the efforts and enthusiasm of teachers themselves as they make decisions about classroom practice. Further information and development:

1 Session at the GA conference, London School of Economics, 9.30am on Wednesday, April 18.

2 *Geography, Schools and Industry* - a new book forthcoming from the Geographical Association.

3 Teachers with examples of teaching units or suggestions, please contact:

Graham Corney, Oxford University Department of Educational Studies, 15 Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6PY.

Graham Corney is project director and tutor in geography, University of Oxford Department of Educational Studies.

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1. CHEMISTRY TEACHER TO HIGHER LEVEL
2. COORDINATOR OF LOWER PRIMARY

Write with Curriculum Vitae plus telephone number to:

Mr. Frank O'Reilly
c/o 33 Woodgarth Lane
Worsley, Manchester

Interviews in London or Manchester between 16-28 April. (1957)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS
JAPAN

International Language Centres have vacancies for Teachers in Japan commencing in early July and mid-September 1984. Applicants should hold a Degree or Certificate of Education, plus a formal EFL qualification and preferably have a minimum of two years' previous EFL experience.

Contracts are for approximately two years. The basic salary is 282,000 Yen per month with increments for qualifications and experience. Air fares and relocation paid. Six weeks holiday per annum, plus Japanese Public Holidays.

For application forms and further details apply to: Personnel Department, International Language Centres, 8 Cavendish Square, London W1M 8DD. Tel: 01-580 4381

OVERSEAS
continued

ROME

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL (HMC Independent Day) Educating 45 pupils ages 3-18, of 65 nationalities) in low applications for the following positions for September 1984. Candidates must be fully qualified teachers with at least 2 years' experience.

1. Head of Mathematics (Scale 18) - Further Maths and teaching ability to organise and lead a strong department.

2. Mathematics Teacher (Scale 18) - Further Maths and teaching ability to organise and lead a strong department.

3. Teacher of Chemistry to suitable applications will be considered for Head of Chemistry (Scale 18).

4. Teacher of Economics 'A' level, with a strong background in the subject.

5. Teacher of Geography to suitable applications will be considered for Head of Geography (Scale 18).

6. Teacher of Biology to 'A' level, with a strong background in the subject.

7. Teacher of Application (Scale 18) - Further Maths and teaching ability to organise and lead a strong department.

8. Teacher of English (Scale 18) - Further Maths and teaching ability to organise and lead a strong department.

9. Teacher of English (Scale 18) - Further Maths and teaching ability to organise and lead a strong department.

10. Teacher of English (Scale 18) - Further Maths and teaching ability to organise and lead a strong department.

Education Department
CAREERS SERVICE

Temporary Careers Officer

(SO1) - £7,818-£8,523 plus casual user car allowance.

This position is to provide temporary cover, as a result of an Officers maternity leave from May up to early 1985, at the latest. Applicants should be qualified and preferably experienced; to undertake a full range of duties.

Please quote ref: 5914.

Trainee Careers Officer

Up to £5,286 on appointment, plus casual user car allowance.

Applications are invited from men and women who are at least 23 years of age and have had at least one years experience in suitable employment, i.e. industry, commerce, social work, administration or teaching; and who hold a degree or equivalent professional qualification. The successful candidate will be seconded on salary to an approved full-time course of training for Careers Officers. The appointment will be subject to acceptance on to the course, leading to the Diploma in Careers Guidance.

Please quote ref: G5915

Application forms and further details for both posts from Director of Personnel and Administration, Town Hall, Forest Road, London E7 4JF. (Tel: 01-531 8899 - 24 hour answering service). Please state post(s) in which you are interested. Closing date: 27th April, 1984. (0883)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Waltham Forest

SHROPSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

SENIOR SECONDARY ADVISER

This is a new post and will carry responsibility for co-ordination of Secondary Staff Development and in-service training.

Salary - Soulbury HT Group 10 £16,008-£17,282

Application forms and further particulars from County Education Officer, Shirehall, Shrewsbury (SAE required). Closing date for applications 27th April 1984. (0890)

Administration
Local Education
Authority

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

EDUCATION OFFICER (CAREERS SERVICE) £12,408/£13,725

Applications are invited for the post of Education Officer (Careers Service). Subsequent to a major review of the Bolton Careers Service this post has been redesignated following the retirement of the Principal Careers Officer.

Candidates must be suitably qualified and have experience at a senior level in a careers service. The Education Officer (Careers Service) will be responsible to the Assistant Director (Further Education/Community Services Division) for the formulation of policy, organisation and development of the Careers Service.

Application forms and further details, which are available from the Personnel Officer, Town Hall, Bolton BL1 1RU (Tel: 22311 Extns. 587 and 8106), should be returned by 27 April 1984. Trade Union Membership is a condition of service.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER (0840)

City of
Manchester

Chief Administrative Officer

£11,364 - £12,738 pa

Required at the South Manchester Community College. The South Manchester Community College is a new Group VII college formed on 1st April 1984 from the amalgamation of Fielden Park College of Further Education, Wythenshawe College of Further Education and South Area of Community Education. This is a senior management post and the person appointed would take an active part in the planning and administration of the college in accordance with the terms of the appointment. The Chief Administrative Officer will be a senior member of the college staff and act as Clerk to the Governing Body and the Academic Board. A copy of the Instrument and Articles will be sent to all short-listed candidates.

The City Council operates a Union Membership agreement under which a new employee is required to become a member of a recognised Union. (0883)

Application forms and details from the Chief Education Officer, Education Offices, Crown Square, Manchester M2 3BB quoting Ref E84. Tel No 061 228-6191 Ext 7315. Closing date 27th April, 1984. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER (0883)

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAREA CONTINUING
EDUCATION OFFICER

(North Barwick, North and Wetherby)

Further Education Division

HT7 - £13,023-£14,283

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for this important and demanding post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the co-ordination and direction of all Continuing Education provision, including adult education, the youth service and community development within the area.

Further details and application forms are available from the Director of Education, Staffs & Personnel Section, Selectpost 17, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with request for details.

Leeds is an equal opportunity employer. Closing date: 14 days after appearance of this advert. (0890)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

COUNCIL OF DISTRICTS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE requires for September 1984: **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER** with responsibility for General Administration. Computer Familiarity with the matters of Administration. Salary: £12,364 - £13,725 plus £182 Overtime Allowance. 1700 hours per week (10830 to Friday). General details and application form obtainable on request from: The Senior Administrative Officer, Aylesbury College of Further Education, Art & Design, Stanley Hill, Aylesbury HP9 9HN. (155448) 460000

SUBJECT INSPECTOR
(Technical and Vocational Education)
Soulbury Group 7 £13,668-£14,898
Ref: E121

With curriculum and in-service responsibility for both Technical and Vocational oriented education. Applicants should have experience of senior management in schools or Further Education and/or advisory work and in-service education and should have had some contact with industry and Further Education either through work experience or link course schemes. It is anticipated that the successful applicant will have had senior experience in the Craft, Design and Technology areas of education.

Bromley has not been allocated any MSC funding for this initiative, but the Authority has decided that, as this is such an important development it should have a permanent Inspectorial post in this field and that initially funds for six schools to start a TVEI programme in September 1984 should be provided.

Application form from Assistant Chief Executive (Manpower), Civic Centre, Rochester Avenue, Bromley, Kent. Tel: 01-280 0324 (24 hour answering service).

Closing date: 27th April, 1984. (0894)

Bromley

Dental Health
Education Officer

£7,404-£9,025 p.a. + £623 London Weighting (A&C Scale 4)

This large Health Authority serving industrial, suburban and rural areas requires an enthusiastic person to further develop Dental Health Education programmes in the District with particular emphasis on priority groups within the community.

The postholder will work in close co-operation with the Health Education Department and the District Dental Officer. Applicants should have teaching experience and previous involvement in Dental Health work. Car owner/driver is required.

Enquiries would be welcomed by Mr B. Hodgson, District Dental Officer, on Hornchurch 52577.

Application form and job description available from the District Personnel Office, Leigh House, Harold Wood Hospital, Gubbins Lane, Romford RM3 0BE, telephone Ingershorne 49814.

Closing date: 10th May, 1984. (4006)

BARKING, HAVERING & BRENTWOOD Health Authority

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

An Adviser for Special
Educational Needs

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the above post available from September. Most of this Adviser's work will be in support of the education of children with special needs in mainstream schools. Salary equivalent Barnham Head Teacher Group 7 plus London Outerfringe allowance.

Further details and application forms from the County Education Officer (Ref JH16), County Hall, Hertford, Herts.

Closing date for applications extended to: 20th April 1984. (0890)

Hertfordshire
County Council

English Language Specialist
for Health programme in Vietnam.

The Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) has given the responsibility for administering the Swedish programme to the health sector in Vietnam to the International Child Health Unit (Uppsala) and Hifab International AB (Stockholm). The programme is comprising five projects:

- The Institute for Protection of Children's Health, Hanoi.
- Vietnam - Sweden General Hospital, Uong Bi
- Yen Hung Rural Health Project
- Central Medical Workshop Hanoi
- Provision of Drugs.

About 40 Swedish expatriate advisors will work within the programme, mainly stationed in Uong Bi and Hanoi. The project language is English. Two expatriate English language teaching specialists are to be employed. One teacher has already been recruited for the post in Uong Bi. We are now seeking an English language specialist for the post in Hanoi.

OBJECTIVES AND DUTIES

The three main objectives of the English training are:

- to facilitate the transfer of knowledge between the Swedish advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts.
- to enable Vietnamese staff to extract information from technical, medical or specialist handbooks etc written in English.
- to enable staff to make long-term international contacts by taking part in conferences, seminars or training programmes abroad.

The teacher/advisor shall carry out the following duties:

- acting as liaison officer and building up co-operation between the health care projects and the language institutions in Hanoi.
- advising the Institute's board on language training needs and on the objectives for the training programmes.
- systematizing language training programmes according to the guidelines laid down by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health.
- acting as pedagogical advisor to those Vietnamese English teachers - assigned to the Institute.
- assist in organizing classes for beginners and intermediate students in close cooperation with the available Vietnamese teachers.
- organizing intensive courses for Vietnamese staff members selected to take part in training abroad and advising on minimum language

requirements for such training.

- setting up a self-study room for Vietnamese staff at the Institute, with appropriate equipment and an adequate supply for relevant training material.
- organizing advanced "language maintenance" courses and seminars both at Uong Bi and in Hanoi in cooperation with the Swedish advisors and organizing special language learning activities for interpreters in the programme.

The two expatriate teachers should liaise very closely. They should act as a team to ensure that the aim of handing over the responsibility for the English training to the Vietnamese institutions by July 1985 is achieved.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Education.

- University degree in Teaching English as a Foreign or Second Language or equivalent.

2. Minimum experience

- A minimum of five years full-time teaching of English as a Foreign or Second Language
- Experience in teacher training
- Experience in producing materials for the teaching of English for Special Purposes (E.S.P.)
- Experience in preparing and administering English tests.

3. Other relevant experience

- Experience of working in a developing country
- Experience of working with Asian students, preferably from Vietnam or South-East Asia.
- Experience of teaching in both extensive and intensive English courses.
- Experience of teaching Medical English.

The position is to be filled as soon as possible. The contract period will be until the end of June 1985.

Please send written application (no forms) with curriculum vitae and names of two referees to Hifab International AB, P.O. Box 7044, S-103 86 Stockholm, Sweden.

The applications should be postmarked on May 4th 1984 at the latest. The salary is negotiable. Additional information will be given by Mrs Birgitta Toernstrand or Mr Alvar Andersson.

hifab
International

Hifab International AB, P.O. Box 7044, S-103 86 Stockholm, Sweden

Northumberland County Council

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Area General Adviser

Salary Soubury Group 9 £15,027-£16,281
Applications are invited from suitably qualified men and women, preferably with experience of education advisory work, for this post to commence 1 September 1984. The successful candidate will co-ordinate the work of a small team of general advisers in part of the county and will take responsibility for one or more of the following curriculum areas:

HOME ECONOMICS
ART
CRAFT, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
HUMANITIES

Technical and Vocational Education Initiative

Assistant Co-ordinator

Burnham Scale 4 (£8,754-£11,763)

Applications invited from teachers in schools or further education colleges for appointment to this new post from September 1984 or earlier if possible. Postholder will cover a wide range of duties relating to central co-ordination and administration of the Northumberland project. Applicants should have an interest in general curriculum development and experience in the applications of microcomputers would be an advantage.

For both posts, removal expenses/allowance may be payable. Application forms and further information, for sale, from Director of Education, County Hall, Morpeth NE61 2EF.
Closing date for receipt of completed forms 4th May 1984. (0972)

Senior Education Inspector for Secondary Education

Salary range £16,008 to £17,282 HT Group 10

Applications are invited from candidates with substantially varied and appropriate experience for the vacant post of Senior Education Inspector for Secondary Education.

The Senior Education Inspector will share the responsibility for a team of General Education Inspectors who give advice on secondary education, particularly within the age range 11-16 years.

The Senior Education Inspector will work directly to the Chief Education Inspector and will be expected to lead in the development of the curriculum, in the provision of an appropriate NSET Programme, in briefing architects on the design of teaching spaces, have the oversight of special projects and be responsible for the management of a group of inspectors.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from: The County Education Officer, (Ref. G/ST/VS), Northampton House, Northampton NN1 2HX.
Closing date: 1 May 1984.

Northamptonshire
Education (0982)

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Careers Officers

Scale 3/5 £6,267-£8,523 p.a. inclusive with bars at £6,762 and £7,632 p.a.
Scale 5 Qualified Careers Officers with a minimum of two years' experience. £7,818-£8,523 p.a.
Scale 4 Qualified Part 1 D.C.G. students. £6,891-£7,632 p.a.
Scale 3 Unqualified applicants £6,267-£7,762 p.a.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the post of Careers Officer. Officers of the Newham Service are expected to be equally adept in advising employers, counselling and advising young people in schools, colleges and the workplace, and helping the young unemployed.

Preference will be given to applications from officers who have successfully completed Parts 1 and 2 of the Diploma in Careers Guidance.

Further details and application forms from Director of Education, Education Department, 379 High Street, Stratford E15. (Telephone No. 01-334 4545 Ext. 5765). Closing Date: 27th May 1984. (0992)

LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM

ADMIN L.E.A. (continued)

EALING LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT

£11,991 - £13,035 with possible progression after one year to a scale with a maximum of £14,035 p.a. inclusive of London weighting.

Applications are sought from graduates with at least five years successful teaching experience who wish to pursue a career in educational administration at a professional level.

Assistance with relocation expenses will be paid in approved cases.
Please quote reference E1852.

Closing date 27.4.1984.

Application forms obtainable from Personnel Office, Room B204, Town Hall Annex, New Broadway, Ealing W5 2BT. Tel: 01-840 1893 (24 hour service). (67152) 40000

NORTH YORKSHIRE

CAREERS OFFICER

Scale 3/5 £6,267-£8,523 p.a. (1981 after 2 years' experience)

To be based in the Scarborough Office, which is responsible for the careers service in the Scarborough and Ryedale areas of the County. Applicants should possess relevant qualifications (Diploma in Careers Guidance etc.) and have experience in the careers service.

Application forms (to be received by 1 May 1984) and further details from the Director of Education, County Hall, Northampton House, Northampton NN1 2HX. Stamped addressed envelope please. (67083) 40000

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Administration General

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS IN FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Requires at its Headquarters in Euston/Kings Cross a

NEGOTIATING SECRETARY commencing as soon as possible.

The person appointed to this senior post will be responsible for a range of matters including preparation of material for policy making and implementing committee decisions. He/she will be in charge of a Department with a wide ranging work remit incorporating teachers' salaries, superannuation and conditions of service. Previous experience in these matters either in the education service or in trade unions would be essential.

Salary will be paid within the range of the Burnham FE Scale VI, scale (currently £16,523 p.a. inclusive of £14,035 p.a. basic plus £2,488 London weighting).

Further details and an application form can be obtained from Mr M. Parnham, FE Scale VI, scale (Ext. 43) NATFHE, Hamilton Place, London WC1H 9BH. Tel: 01-838 8762. Completed forms should be returned by 24th April 1984. (67573) 50000

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Education Department

CAREERS OFFICER (Handicapped Specialist)

Post E.398 £8,154 - £8,712 per annum

Applications are invited for the above post at the Area Education Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The post holder will be directly responsible to the Principal Careers Officer, to establish, develop and maintain an advisory and employment placement service to the more physically, mentally and disadvantaged handicapped young people within the County.

Application forms and further details are available from County Hall, Grimwade Street, Ipswich. (Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope).

Closing date: 1st May 1984.

Suffolk County Council

SENIOR ADVISER - FURTHER EDUCATION £16008-£17262 p.a.

Applications are invited for this senior post for appointment from 1st September. We are seeking a graduate who has teaching and/or lecturing experience in Secondary Schools and/or Colleges, and successful experience as an adviser with both general and specialist responsibilities.

Bradford is a front runner in developing exciting education policies and initiatives, including consortium groupings of schools and colleges, a technical and vocational education unit, the "Mis à Niveau" scheme, community and adult education strategies, and close relations with MSC/YTS developments.

The successful candidate will have responsibility for assisting in the management of the advisory team.

Ref. E17784/ES

Application forms are available from the Directorate Personnel Office, Directorate of Educational Services, 4th Floor, Provincial House, Market Street, Bradford BD1 1NP.

City of Bradford Metropolitan Council

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from candidates of any age, sex, race or disability unless otherwise stated.

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County of Cleveland Educational Psychologists

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(3 posts) £10,497-£14,253

We have three vacancies for fully qualified educational psychologists to be based at REDCAR, MIDDLESBROUGH and HARTLEPOOL. Two of these are new posts created to help meet some of the extra demands made upon our Services by the 1981 Act.

The board invites applications for the post of Assistant Secretary for the County of Cleveland Educational Psychologists. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Service, and will be expected to develop and maintain a high standard of professional practice. The candidate should have a minimum of five years' experience in a similar post, and should be a member of the British Psychological Society. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and maintain a high standard of professional practice, and to be a member of the British Psychological Society.

Application forms and further details are available from the County Education Officer, Education Office, Woodside Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 3BN, to whom completed forms should be returned by 30th April, 1984. We are an Equal Opportunities employer. (0982)

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